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ICRC warns against misuse of emblem

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross Wednesday appealed to all sides in Yugoslavia's internal conflicts not to abuse the Red Cross sign to disguise military operations. The Geneva-based agency received repeated allegations of misuse of the emblem, including charges it was used to shield ground and airborne troop movements in recent armed conflict. ICRC spokeswoman Cristina Fedele said. It was not disclosed who made the allegations and Ms. Fedele said ICRC staff members have been unable to verify them. An ICRC statement said the all-Swiss humanitarian organisation sent an appeal to all sides involved in the Yugoslav strife urging them to respect basic international humanitarian law. Recipients included the breakaway republics of Slovenia and Croatia and federal authorities in Belgrade, Ms. Fedele said. The ICRC said it reminded the feuding sides that, under humanitarian law, the Red Cross emblem may only be used in "medical and protection activities."

BCCI backed Israel arms sale to Iran for CIA
PARIS (R) — Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), accused by regulators in several countries of fraud, acted as an intermediary when Israel delivered arms to Iran for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the so-called Irangate affair, the French newspaper Liberation said Wednesday. BCCI's links with the CIA were first suggested in earlier reports in the New York Times, the paper said. Citing a BCCI source, Liberation said the bank was nominated by the CIA when an Israeli arms trader and officials wanted guarantees before agreeing to be part of the deal. The role of the Israeli government in the deal had never been established, the paper added. "In return for indemnification, the bank agreed to set up letters of credit between Tehran and the Israeli negotiators. In plain language, to make official the secret financial transactions between the two parties," Liberation said. "And it guaranteed the sums exchanged in the event of problems," it said. It added that the arrangement worked perfectly throughout the Irangate affair "without in any way excluding the 'parallel operations' of Adnan Khashoggi."

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House votes on government today

Deputies' speeches range from constructive criticism to outright attack

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Taher Masri faces its final test today when deputies at the Lower House of Parliament cast their votes in favour of or against the government.

Today's session, during which five deputies are expected to address the House before Mr. Masri replies to the House, ends a three-day marathon in which more than 30 deputies aired their views on the government and its policy statement.

House and government sources and observers estimate the cabinet will win between 45 and 49 votes, a comfortable majority in the 80-seat House. In Tuesday's session the Muslim Brotherhood, with 23 votes, said they were withholding confidence. In Wednesday's two out of the 16 deputies who spoke withheld confidence.

Except for deputies Ali Al Fajir and Ahmad Awadi Abbadi, most of the deputies who spoke Wednesday wanted the government to address the country's agricultural, educational and poverty problems.

Dr. Faqir, an independent Islamist representing Ajloun, criticised the prime minister for not including Islamists in his cabinet.

Dr. Faqir, who served in the government of Mudar Badran as minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs until January, lashed out at what he described as a campaign to discredit Islamists. He also criticised Mr. Masri for his choice of ministers. He said Mr. Masri's cabinet included three categories of ministers. "Those who are like food, you cannot do without; those who are like medicine, you have to swallow with bitterness; and those who are like diseases, you have to get rid of," he said.

Dr. Faqir, an eloquent speaker, was applauded several times from the galleries.

Dr. Abbadi on the other hand made a strong attack on the prime minister and some of his ministers. Dr. Abbadi, an ex-police officer, accused Mr. Masri of receiving \$70,000 from Ahmad Chalbi, chairman of the defunct Petra Bank, which was seized by the government in 1988 for mismanagement and corruption.

Dr. Abbadi, who after the



Prime Minister Taher Al Masri in a pensive mood as he attends Wednesday's session of the Lower House (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

formation of the Masri cabinet on June 19, had cabled His Majesty King Hussein protesting against Mr. Masri's nomination, claimed he had documents and tapes that prove some ministers were corrupt. However, he did not name the ministers.

Political analysts who assessed Mr. Masri's confidence battle vis-a-vis that of his predecessor Badran described it as "mild," although there were a couple of

speeches which bordered on "outright slander against the policies of Mr. Masri himself and some cabinet members."

The strongest political criticism came from Mr. Faqir, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in accusing Mr. Masri and his cabinet of attempting to ignore Islamic sharia and uprooting Islam in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc had charged that Mr. Masri's

policy statement only mentioned Islam in passing and did not indicate that it was working towards spreading the message of God in Jordan. It accused the government of being formed for the sole purpose of limiting the spread of political Islam.

The same accusations were also levelled at the government by independent Islamist Deputy Jamal Sararah.

Mr. Masri's government is a

coalition of centre, left and right of centre political ideologies as well as economy technocrats and has excluded the Muslim Brotherhood movement although it includes two ministers from the independent Islamist bloc.

Following are some of the speeches in the House:

Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi

Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi

launched a bitter attack on the new government, levelling a string of accusations at its head and members and alleging that they are involved in illegal actions on the domestic or external fronts.

Dr. Abbadi criticised the media for lauding the new prime minister and his government and for describing it as one complementing the previous government and representing a coalition of all forces and political groups.

Dr. Abbadi said that the present government came only to pave the ground for Israel to occupy Jordan, a move which, according to him, the former government had worked towards achieving.

Dr. Abbadi noted that Mr. Masri was the nephew of a businessman who, he claimed, had provided catering for the U.S.-led allied forces during the Gulf crisis. He also said that Mr. Masri appointed his relatives and in-laws in the new government, that he had fled the country during the Gulf crisis, that he keeps close ties with Arab

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Eyskens to visit Syria and Iran

BRUSSELS (AP) — Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens will leave for Syria and Iran next Tuesday for talks on the Middle East peace process and regional security, officials said. Mr. Eyskens will meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other leading government officials to discuss the chances for a further breakthrough in the peace process. Mr. Eyskens already lauded Mr. Assad's willingness to attend a peace conference without conditions. "We consider it a breakthrough in the peace process," foreign affairs spokesman John Verbeke said Wednesday. "We think there is hope Israel will be inclined to participate in the peace process." Mr. Eyskens, who visited Israel last week, will travel from Syria to Iran July 26 for talks with President Hashemi Rafsanjani on regional security and relations with the European Community. Mr. Eyskens will be back in Brussels July 29.

Velayati to hold Afghan talks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Pakistan later this month for talks on a political solution to the Afghan conflict, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. During his July 28-30 visit, Mr. Velayati will meet Pakistani officials and Afghan guerrilla groups based in Pakistan and Iran to try to evolve a common approach to the problem, he said. Pakistan and Iran, which support guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government, have endorsed a recent United Nations plan to end the 13-year-old civil war.

Turkey to get free Saudi oil

ANKARA (R) — Saudi Arabia will give Turkey crude oil worth \$1 billion to help finance an armed forces defence fund, the foreign ministry said Wednesday. "The amount to be saved by getting oil will be diverted to Turkey's defence spending," spokesman Murat Sungar said. He said the pledge of \$1 billion worth of free oil had come in a letter from King Fahd to President Furgut Ozal, delivered by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal. Prince Saud said during a visit to Turkey last weekend that Riyadh would contribute to a defence fund planned for Turkey, a key member of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. The United States has been trying to persuade Saudi Arabia and other wealthy Gulf countries to help finance Turkey's military modernisation, especially the purchase of a further 160 F-16 combat aircraft to be built in Turkey. The Saudi decision was made public three days ahead of a visit to Turkey by U.S. President George Bush.

Turkey angry over Qadhafi

ANKARA (AP) — The foreign ministry Wednesday expressed anger about Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's criticism of Turkey for allowing deployment of an allied force troops to watch developments in northern Iraq. Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told a weekly news briefing that Turkey rejected Colonel Qadhafi's message relayed by diplomatic channels following its broadcast on Libyan Television last week about the issue. Mr. Sungar said the broadcast of the message before its delivery was against diplomatic tradition. He also added that the message was turned down because its content was unacceptable and was not in accordance with the "spirit of the bilateral relations, which we wish to develop with Libya." In a message to President Turgut Ozal, Col. Qadhafi warned that any attack on Iraq from Turkish territory would result in a break in Libyan-Turkish relations. "Any attack launched against Iraq from Turkish territory will blow up the bridges of all relations between Libya and Turkey, for we believe that any new attack on Iraq is unjustified and is a blatant injustice," Col. Qadhafi had warned.

Saddam calls on Iraqis to work for political pluralism

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — In his first speech in four months, President Saddam Hussein called on the Iraqi people Wednesday to forget internal differences and enter a new era of political pluralism.

President Saddam, addressing the nation in a televised speech on the 23rd anniversary of the rise to power of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, also accused allied powers of trying to undermine the party's achievements by continuing economic sanctions against Iraq.

"Pluralism will be the main pillar in the next new phase," Mr. Saddam said.

"I urge all nationalist Iraqis from all intellectual and political trends who are concerned with Iraq's sovereignty, unity and independence to turn a new page and forget the differences and contradictions of the past."

The 45-minute speech made no mention of a July 25 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to cooperate fully on disclosure of its nuclear resources or face a new allied attack on its military and nuclear installations.

"We are soon going to enter the phase of experiencing the principle of a multi-party system with its open doors," he said in the speech, broadcast on television and radio.

"Let us all work together to

King congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating him on the occasion of Iraq's National Day.

King Hussein wished the Iraqi president continued good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress and prosperity. "In our name and on behalf of the people and the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, we send Your Excellency and the brotherly Iraqi people our warmest and heartfelt wishes," the King said in the cable.

"We pray to God that you celebrate this occasion next year in good health and while the brotherly Iraqi people enjoy democracy and political pluralism, protected by their army and institutions," King Hussein said.

The King said: "May God support and bless you in your undertakings until you overcome your crisis and continue your path and achieve your aspirations of progress, dignity, stability and unity."

continue the march of reconstruction of a great and prosperous Iraq within the framework of democracy and national unity."

He said the multi-party law passed by the National Assembly and awaiting ratification by the ruling Revolution Command Council would usher in a new phase in the life of Iraq's 18 million people.

The tone of his address was in stark contrast to last year when he angrily accused Kuwait of economic sabotage.

President Saddam said Iraq was the victim of conspiracies designed to reinforce Israeli

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Israelis break legs of 2 boys

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers broke the legs of two Palestinian boys during clashes in Idna village near Hebron in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

The army said it was checking the report. Violence erupted in Idna Tuesday night and troops shot and wounded two Palestinians after an army patrol was stoned, military officials said.

Palestinians said that during Wednesday's clashes troops caught two boys, aged 12 and 13, and severely beat them, breaking their legs.

Elsewhere in the Hebron area, troops shot and wounded four other Palestinians in scattered clashes Tuesday night, the sources said.

In the Al Arrub refugee camp, Palestinians said the hand of a two-year-old boy was broken

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U.N. panel welcomes Jordan's human rights report, expects more action

From Waleed Sadi in Geneva

JORDAN Wednesday presented its second periodic report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee (UNHCR) on its level of adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Salameh Hamad, under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, submitted the report on behalf of the government of Jordan. He was later subjected to detailed questioning on the various Jordanian laws and practices with a view to determining their compliance with the covenant's provisions.

Mr. Hamad's presentation was characterised by a profound knowledge of the country's laws and practices and by mastery style that won the appreciation of the committee members. Above all, there was a sense of appreciation for the admission that there is more to be done in the country to complete the road towards full democracy and rule of law. Yet Amman's July 7 declaration to lift martial law was overshadowed by the continuation of the defence law of 1959. The members of the committee took issue with the fact that there is still in force a semblance of emergency rule by virtue of the retention of

the defence law. The reply of Mr. Hamad that there is now a new defence law that purports to extend additional safeguards and protection to detainees did not seem to satisfy the committee members.

The consensus within the committee appears to be in favour of Jordan completing what it has embarked on by repealing also the defence law even in its new form. In this context the halo of the dramatic announcement that the 24-year-old martial law was repealed was diminished considerably by the retention of another feature of emergency rule as expressed in the new defence law. Other issues of concern of the committee members, who serve as experts and in their personal capacity, centred on equality between the sexes, nationality law, the status of the covenant in the laws of the country and matters related to the judicial system in the Kingdom, including fairness of trials.

Some members raised questions about the existing tribal justice system in the country and about the legal status on the charter that was recently adopted.

The application of the death sentence on what the members

deemed rather arbitrary and broad criteria connected with state security drew much criticism. In his rebuttal, Mr. Hamad reminded the committee that even those who conspired against the life of His Majesty King Hussein were released, rehabilitated and given later senior posts. This, he said, is evidence that Jordan is humanitarian. He also announced that Jordan is considering ratification of the convention against torture.

The consideration of Jordan's report continues Thursday afternoon when the members will make a summation about where Jordan is still in conflict with the articles of the covenant. It is expected that Jordan's non-compliance with Article 4 of the covenant which requires states applying emergency rule to notify the other state parties through the U.N. secretary general about which rights have been derogated from under the emergency legislation will figure high. Jordan, in the committee's final judgment, in effect violated this article by not informing the U.N. secretary general of its promulgation of a state of emergency under either the defence law or martial law

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Mubarak in Syria ahead of Baker

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Syria Wednesday and held a round of talks with President Hafez Al Assad ahead of a new Middle East peace mission by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Mubarak, whose trip was not announced in advance, went straight into talks with Mr. Assad, who told U.S. President George Bush in a letter last week that he accepted U.S. proposals on the first steps towards a Middle East peace settlement.

Egypt welcomed Syria's change of position, which brought the two main Arab powers together behind a concerted Middle East peace strategy for the first time since the early 1970s.

Mr. Mubarak was met at Damascus international airport by Mr. Assad and the two opened talks at the Tishrin guest palace, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

A day earlier, a joint Egyptian-Syrian commission meeting here agreed to coordinate the two countries' foreign policies.

The two countries, which took part in the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war, have called for stepped up pressure on Israel to enter into peace talks.

Mr. Mubarak was accompanied by Foreign Minister Amr Musa and his chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz.

Vice-President Abdul Halim

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3 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers, including two officers, died and one guerrilla was killed in an overnight clash in South Lebanon, the army command said Wednesday. It was the first serious incident in the area this year.

Following the clash, villages in South Lebanon were twice bombed by Israeli fighter jets and shelled by Israeli artillery, an army statement said.

The guerrillas were apparently Lebanese, not from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose bases facing Israel were captured by the Lebanese army earlier this month, the army said.

The clashes took place overnight and military censors delayed reports on the incident for 20 hours.

The last serious incident in South Lebanon was in November 1990, when five soldiers died in a clash near Shebaa. In 1990 six Israeli soldiers died in South Lebanon. Wednesday's deaths were the first this year.

The air strikes that followed the clash were Israel's first in Lebanon since the Lebanese army took control of guerrilla bases in the south this month.

The army said the fighting took place near the village of Kfar Houch, 23 kilometres north of Israel, and outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the border.

Within hours Israeli warplanes

bombed bases of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist movement Hizbollah close to the village.

Lebanese sources said the Israeli planes hit targets in or near the villages of Abu Rashed, Jabbour, Toumat Niba, Louweizeb and Maydoun, all on mountain slopes east of the town of Jezzine, which is held by Israel and the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA).

About 3,000 SLA militiamen and 1,000 Israeli soldiers patrol the 15-kilometre deep zone set up in 1985 when the Jewish state withdrew the bulk of its 1982 invasion forces. Others hold a corridor leading north to Jezzine.

The Israelis were killed while on patrol, between the "security zone" and Jezzine, Israeli military sources said.

The Lebanese security sources said Hizbollah guerrillas had made two overnight attacks on Israeli forces and the SLA in defiance of government efforts to curb guerrilla activity.

Four warplanes then attacked bases on Jabal Safi southeast of Jezzine.

A Hizbollah statement said four of its fighters were wounded east of Jezzine when a plane knocked out their vehicles.

After the air strikes, Israeli howitzers bombarded a string of villages with more than 150 shells in the same area which was bombed and strafed by the planes, witnesses said.

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Stranded Somalis stage sit-in in Amman

By Serena Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 50 Somali nationals seeking asylum in a third country are staging a peaceful sit-in in front of the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in protest against what they describe as "discrimination and corruption" at the U.N. agency.

Complaining bitterly that they have been stranded in Jordan after arriving here from Kuwait following the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of the emirate, a spokesman for the Somali refugee community accused the chief of the UNHCR mission here of "racial and religious discrimination."

"We have been in the camps of Jordan for nine months now, and

no one has done anything to help us," said Abdul Kader Haji Ibrahim. "Other refugees like the Iranians have been here for five months and have already been helped."

Around 110 Somali nationals remain in Jordan of a total of over 1,000 who fled Kuwait following the invasion. Others have found refuge or have returned home following the restoration of calm and order in northern Somalia after President Mohammad Siad Barre was toppled in a violent upheaval earlier this year.

All the Somalis were registered with UNHCR, an agency which helps politically persecuted people find refuge. One of the cardinal rules of the agency is that none of the refugees will be sent anywhere against his or her will.

"We don't want to go to Somalia because of political and economic reasons," Mr. Ibrahim said. "Life there is very primitive. There is no education, no jobs, nothing."

Others refuse to return for fear of getting killed in the civil unrest, which continues to rage in parts of southern Somalia.

Mohammad Yousef, 47, said that 14 members of his family were killed by anti-Siad Barre rebels in Somalia, leaving him the sole survivor. "They killed my father, mother and all my brothers and sisters," he said. "I have a scar that reminds me of what is going on in Somalia now," he added pointing at a large scar on the lower part of his waist.

According to another demonstrator, Ismael Yousef Jouleed, 14 Somali families are waiting in Jordan for reunion with family members in Britain, Canada and

Germany while the rest "are waiting to be sent anywhere else in the world but Somalia."

Many of the Somalis, who have been living in the Andalus refugee camp established during the Gulf crisis to receive evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq, walked from the camp to the UNHCR headquarters in Shmeisani for the sit-in, according to Mr. Ibrahim. Police arranged for their return trip to the camp on Tuesday.

Mr. Ibrahim said that they will continue the sit-in until they get a chance to meet with the UNHCR chief of mission, Carl Fonseth. "We will not leave until we see Mr. Fonseth," he said. "Yesterday he escaped the directorate without seeing us. He does not want to meet us."

Mr. Fonseth denied the allegation and insisted that he had given them an appointment. "I

told them we cannot have a meeting in the street and asked to meet with them like civilised people next Monday," he said. "I also asked them to give me the names of the people left so that we can deal with them individually."

"Everyone has a certain case that we have to deal with separately," Mr. Fonseth said. "Some of them are awaiting family reunion, but unfortunately there has been no reply so far (from the host country). But we are constantly following it up."

Asked whether there was any truth of charges that there was discrimination against Somalis, Mr. Fonseth said: "That is wrong. The situation in Somalia has changed, and many Somalis refuse to return to their home country, so we have to repatriate them elsewhere."

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Kuwait council says cash will lure back citizens

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's consultative council has proposed big cash payments to lure home reluctant citizens.

It urged the government to give every Kuwaiti family 20,000 dinars (\$65,000) to soothe their suffering following seven months of Iraqi occupation.

The National Council, which was no legislative powers, asked the government Tuesday to consider the idea as a matter of urgency.

Half the money will be a grant, the rest will be a long-term interest-free loan.

The council is also considering proposals to cut water and electricity prices.

About half of the 700,000 Kuwaitis who lived in the emirate before Iraq's invasion last August have remained abroad. The government is keen to lure them back to get the economy going again.

It badly needs manpower to make a success of its "Kuwaitisation" policy of reducing dependence on foreign workers. Thousands of foreigners, many of them Palestinians accused of sympathising with Iraq during the occupation, have been told their services are no longer required.

Government critics have denounced the proposed handout as a ploy to buy votes ahead of parliamentary elections next year.

They say the cash will encourage those Kuwaitis still in the country to buy holidays abroad to escape the summer heat and pollution from hundreds of blazing oil wells.

"Whoever loves Kuwait ... does not put a value on money," wrote columnist Yousef Al Shahab in the Qabas daily.

"The deputies know well the enormity of the responsibility that falls on the state in the post-liberation phase and they realise more than most of the electorate family heads want this money for travel and tourism ...," he wrote last week when the council was debating the proposal.

Kuwait's leaders have made money a top political priority since the emirate's liberation by the U.S.-led allies in February.

The government has wiped out personal bank and housing loans and given Kuwaitis who stayed during the occupation a one-off payment of 500 dinars (\$1,600).

Kuwaitis who lived abroad during the crisis have had all their expenses paid. Civil servants are picking up back pay for the period, which government critics say has inspired an exodus to the cooler parts of Europe, popular destinations for the rich during the summer months.

Kuwait said Monday it would borrow \$33 billion on international markets to rebuild its shattered economy and pay off Gulf war debts.

Although Kuwait has not been exporting any oil since the invasion, its estimated 100-plus billion dollar assets abroad still make it one of the richest countries in the Gulf.

Treats and hazards to health posed by pollution caused by oil wells left ablaze during the war are seen as one of the main reasons behind the decision by many Kuwaitis not to return to their country any sooner.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

No quick clues to Saudi crash

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian authorities investigating last week's crash of a chartered jet in Saudi Arabia that killed 261 said Tuesday it may take a month to determine the cause. The crash is being investigated by Ottawa officials at the request of the Saudis. The investigators Tuesday received flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the wreckage of the DC-8, which was chartered from Montreal-based Nationair. The jet crashed at the airport in Jeddah minutes after takeoff, killing 261, mostly Muslim pilgrims returning to Nigeria. Fourteen Canadian crew members also died. The Canadian investigators said they will need between two to four weeks to provide a preliminary report on the cause of the crash, because the so-called "black box," which contains key flight data and voice recordings, was an older model. Data from newer models can usually be interpreted within two weeks, they said. Saudi investigators have said they believe a retarded tire disintegrated during takeoff and started a fire in the wheel well of the jet.

Achille Lauro extradition hearing postponed

ATHENS (R) — The Greek supreme court has postponed the extradition hearing of Palestinian Abdul Rahim Khaled, wanted by Italy for allegedly masterminding the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in 1985. A court official said the hearing was postponed until Sept. 24 because Mr. Khaled's lawyer was absent. Mr. Khaled, 57, a senior lieutenant of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, was arrested in Athens on March 5 after police found a bomb and drugs in his Athens home. They said the bomb was intended for a British bank. Mr. Khaled was sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence by a Genoa court in 1987 for his role in the hijacking during which an American was killed.

Sudanese official visits Iran with message

NICOSIA (R) — A top Sudanese official has arrived in Tehran with a message for President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani from Sudan's leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It gave no details of the message carried by Colonel Suleiman Mohammed Suleiman, a member of Sudan's ruling Revolutionary Council. During Col. Suleiman's previous visit to Tehran last October, Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to help Khartoum in its civil war against rebels in southern Sudan. IRNA said Col. Suleiman held talks with Iran's Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan. The agency said Col. Suleiman would follow up a letter of understanding on cooperation, especially in the military area signed by the two countries last year. "The U.S.-sponsored regional arms control plan should include all countries equally, among them Israel," it quoted Col. Suleiman as telling reporters in Tehran. Iran has dismissed the U.S. plan for keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the Middle East which was endorsed last week by the other four permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — The Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

Saudi Arabia backs ban on lethal weapons

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia said it is fully prepared to observe a ban on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East provided it applies equally to all countries of the region. "The Saudi government, in line with its policy supporting peace throughout the world, expresses a true desire and full readiness to abide by any ban on arms of mass destruction in the Middle East provided it covers all countries of the region on equal basis," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Arab commentators have expressed concern that U.S. proposals for a ban on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region may not be applied to Israel, which refuses to confirm or deny that it has nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. United Nations experts are supervising the gradual destruction of Iraq's lethal weapons in line with a U.N. Gulf war ceasefire resolution. SPA quoted an official source as saying Tuesday night the kingdom was willing to be "in the forefront of countries in the region getting rid of such banned weapons, if the ban applies to weapons it possesses." The source called on all countries of the region to "respond seriously to this noble aim."

Pirates demand \$250,000 for freeing Egyptians

CAIRO (AP) — Eritrean pirates have demanded \$250,000 as ransom for releasing 25 Egyptian fishing boats and 450 fishermen they captured in the Red Sea, a state-owned newspaper said Wednesday. Owners of the boats said in a report to an emergency meeting of the Egyptian Fishermen Federation held Tuesday that the pirates captured their ships under the watch of Eritrean authorities, according to daily Al Akhbar. It said the report was communicated to Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other high-ranking Egyptian officials for action. No other details were given. The president of the Egyptian federation said last week that Eritreans in speedboats have taken prisoner around 400 Egyptian fishermen and their 14 boats. Al Reizek said the fishermen and their boats were seized earlier this month while fishing in international waters in the Red Sea. He said he had asked the Egyptian government to intervene. There was no explanation to the discrepancy in number of ships reported by the owners and Mr. Reizek. Mr. Reizek told the AP in a telephone interview from the Mediterranean city of Alexandria Wednesday that Yemen had seized another two Egyptian ships and around 60 fishermen recently and that contacts were ongoing to obtain their release. Burros Ghalib, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, told reporters the men were caught fishing in territorial waters of Yemen and Eritrea, northern Ethiopia. He said Cairo is negotiating their release. In the past, Mr. Reizek said, Eritrean soldiers had stopped fishing boats and took the food they carried but then let them go. This year, he said, Eritreans and Yemenis started seizing the boats. Egypt, Yemen and Eritrea, which officially is still part of Ethiopia, are on the Red Sea coast. After the ouster of Ethiopian strongman Mengistu Haile Mariam this year, the Eritreans have been running their own affairs independently from the interim central government in Addis Ababa. They have got the right of self-determination. Kamal Khaled, a member of the Egyptian parliament suggested last week that the attacks have a political nature. In remarks to the weekly magazine Al Massawar, Mr. Khaled said the attacks are linked to the differences that surface every now and then among Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and the Eritreans.

Swiss deny release of Iraqi bank accounts

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Switzerland Wednesday denied Iraq's assertion that several Swiss banks had released \$70 million of Baghdad's assets, breaking an economic embargo.

There has been no confirmed freeing of Iraqi property held overseas since the Gulf war.

"There is no way that Switzerland would break international solidarity and lift those sanctions," said Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman Christian Meuwly. "The only exception we have made so far was for the shipment of milk products, done in agreement with the U.N. Sanctions Committee."

Claude Gerbex, spokesman for the Swiss Economics Ministry, said of the report by Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh: "It's a lie."

There was no immediate comment from Swiss banking officials.

The U.N. Security Council imposed economic sanctions on Baghdad following its invasion of Kuwait in August. The U.N. Sanctions Committee said in May that nations were free to release frozen Iraqi assets so that Baghdad could pay for food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

of its frozen funds. Iraq has asked the United Nations for permission to sell \$1 billion worth of oil to buy food and other necessities. The sale is opposed by the United States, which says more than one million tons of food have been delivered to Iraq over the past four months and that current supplies are adequate.

As a result of shortages, Mr. Saleh said, prices for such commodities as wheat and cooking oil have risen in the open markets by 2,000 to 3,000 per cent.

He said a kilogramme of wheat flour brings 2,500 fils on the black market, compared with 115 fils under the government ration system.

A kilo of cooking oil costs 410 fils in the ration system and 13,000 fils on the free market, he said.

A fils is 1,000th of a dinar, which is \$3 at the official exchange rate.

Waiving sample monthly rations of tea and sugar at television cameras, Mr. Saleh angrily said: "Let American or European mothers try to feed their children on these quantities. Ask them whether 450 grams of infant formula is enough for a baby every week."

Ethiopia appeals for \$50m

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's new leaders appealed to the international community Tuesday for \$50 million to help rehabilitate more than 300,000 former soldiers of ousted dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Mulugetta Gebre-Hiywet, head of a commission dealing with former soldiers and disabled war veterans, told a meeting of diplomats and relief agencies that Ethiopia's interim government had inherited empty coffers and could not cope with the rehabilitation of soldiers without help.

"The task is so great that the active support of the international community is urgently needed," he said.

Colonel Mengistu's army, once the largest in Africa, crumbled in weeks in the face of an onslaught by the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and an allied group, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

The EPRDF took power in the capital Addis Ababa in May and has since invited other political groups to form a broad-based interim administration. The EPLF controls northern Eritrea province.

Mr. Mulugetta said more than 200,000 former soldiers were now camped at eight centres around the country, about 60,000 had fled to neighbouring countries and about 85,000 were making their way home.

He said that of the total, some 40,000 were disabled war veterans who needed special help to return to normal life.

The EPRDF has said that in the future it plans to form a far smaller army. Despite running one of the poorest countries in the world, Col. Mengistu was spending more than half the state budget each year on his war against the rebels.

A leading Ethiopian academic has urged the country's interim leaders not to detain people simply because they were members of the Mengistu government.

Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam told a television panel discussion that a policy charter adopted this month at a national conference of political and ethnic groups bound the government to respect United Nations conventions on human rights.

"To detain people without first proving their guilt violates those rights," Mr. Mesfin said.

The panel includes EPRDF leader and interim President Meles Zenawi.

Political analysts said the panel discussion between Mr. Meles and academics such as Mr. Mesfin, who has been critical in the past of the EPRDF, was a welcome move towards free debate in Ethiopia. State-run television banned all criticism of the government under Col. Mengistu.

League official rebukes G7 over boycott statement

CAIRO (R) — A senior Arab League official sharply criticised an appeal by the world's seven major industrial nations for Arab states to suspend their economic boycott against Israel.

"There is no balance in the G-7 statement which does not realise the importance or reason behind the Arab boycott," said Adnan Omran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs.

"The boycott resulted from a cause which is the state of occupation by Israel of Arab lands. With the end of the cause, there will be no reason to continue the boycott and any change in this equation will lead to Israeli rejection of peace efforts and will not achieve peace," Mr. Omran told Reuters.

The Group of Seven issued a statement Tuesday urging Israel to freeze Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories and Arab states to suspend their boycott against Israel.

The seven — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — said Arabs and Israelis should take goodwill confidence-building measures.

Mr. Omran said the economic boycott was the "Arabs' legal method of defying themselves against an occupation which continued to defy and challenge the international community."

Israel, Mr. Omran said, refused to implement United Nations resolutions, calling on it to trade occupied territory for peace.

He said the boycott was not discriminatory and was not aimed alone at Jewish companies, but also included any company — whether owned by Arabs or Muslims — which traded with Israel and helped it become economically stronger.

"Linking the Jewish settlements with the Arab boycott will only strengthen Israeli stubbornness and hardline attitudes towards international peace efforts," Mr. Omran said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is due to Damascus Thursday at the start of his fifth Middle East shuttle since the Gulf war to try to launch an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

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U.N. envoy pessimistic about prospects for Afghan conference

GENEVA (AP) — A special U.N. envoy for Afghanistan said Tuesday he was pessimistic about the prospects for a peace conference to resolve differences between the country's warring factions.

Benan Sevan said the refusal of some rebel leaders to negotiate directly with Afghan President Najibullah continued to frustrate efforts to find a political settlement to the 13-year conflict.

"The basic difficulty continues to remain that no one in the resistance is prepared at this stage to state in public they are prepared to participate in any meetings with the government," he told a press conference.

"Until that taboo is lifted, there is no hope for any peace conference or inter-Afghan dialogue," between the government and the numerous rebel factions, he said.

He said although there was consensus among foreign governments on the need for a political settlement, this could not be forced on the Afghans.

The Soviet Union has supplied the Communist government with weapons, while the United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan support the rebels. They all recently called for peace.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar in May launched a plan aimed at a political settlement. This included the need for a ceasefire and a transition period leading to a broad-based, elected government. It offered U.N. help during the transition and electoral process.

Mr. Sevan said despite the gloomy outlook in the short term, the U.N. still hoped to "put the process on the right track for peace," before the end of the year.

He said foreign governments backed the U.N. plan and the "vast majority" of Afghan leaders were also in favour.

"But it is a slow process. We have to build it brick by brick," he said.

Earlier this month a senior Swiss government official held talks with Afghan government and rebel leaders. The neutral country has offered to mediate in Afghanistan and said it is willing to host a peace conference.

Switzerland was the venue for negotiations that culminated with the signing of the 1988 Geneva accords, paving the way for Moscow to end more than nine years of military intervention in Afghanistan in February 1989.

About five million refugees who fled the war remain in Pakistan and Iran.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Snorky
18:35	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Family Man
21:00	Outlaws
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

04:31	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:48	Maghrib
20:21	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740	Assemblies of God Church Tel. 637875
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephrem Church Tel. 771751	Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623524 and 649922
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min/Max temp. 16 / 30
Aqaba	24 / 38
Deserts	21 / 35
Jordan Valley	22 / 36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Wa'd Dumali	774800
Dr. Mohammed Abbadi	778959
Dr. Walid Samdi	683266
Dr. Doud Samouni	686385
Finn pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shumiani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Kathem Khanfar	(—)
Al Shams pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Husein Sharabati	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	943402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Call	910230
Central Amman Telephone	910230
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	662279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	775112/6
Army, Merka	891611/5
Queen Alla Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
RADIO JORDAN	
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alla Int. Airport	06-53200
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princeca Banna Hospital	(02)275935
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)52005, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:00	New Delhi (RJ)
18:15	Riyadh (RJ)
18:30	Dhahran (RJ)
18:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:00	Beirut (RJ)
19:15	Larnaca (RJ)
19:30	Bangkok (RJ)
19:45	London (RJ)
20:00	Cairo (RJ)
20:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:45	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:30	Bahrain, Doha (GF)
08:15	Amman (MS)
12:30	Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:50	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Larnaca (RJ)
14:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
15:15	Doha, Muscat (GF)
20:55	Cairo (MS)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apples	550 / 250
Apricots	500 / 400
Bananas	500 / 450
Bananas (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beans	550 / 240
Cabbage	120 / 130
Carrot	150 / 120
Cauliflower	160 / 120
Corn	160 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 150
Eggplant	160 / 120
Garlic	750 / 650
Grapes	350 / 250
Green peas	300 / 250
Lemon	380 / 300
Marrow (large)	120 / 80
Marrow (small)	270 / 220
Olives	540 / 300
Onion (dry)	160 / 120
Orange	400 / 320
Peaches	550 / 450
Pumpkins	400 / 200
Pepper (hot)	250 / 160
Pepper (green)	220 / 150
Potatoes	280 / 220
Sage	550 / 500

House votes on Masri government today

(Continued from page 1)

businessmen known to be linked to foreign nations which keep interfering in Jordan's internal affairs, that as foreign minister, he had close and intimate relations with the U.S. ambassador, that he allegedly received \$70,000 bribe from the manager of the new defunct Petra Bank, as reported by the first witness in the Petra Bank trials and that Mr. Masri spends more time in Europe and America than in Jordan.

Dr. Abbadi criticised the new prime minister for his statement in which he referred to the need to introduce radical changes in Jordan's relations with other countries and to prepare the country for dealing with other nations in the light of the new developments and changes. Dr. Abbadi said this meant that the new prime minister wanted to have contacts with Israel.

Dr. Abbadi also accused Mr. Masri of trying to stifle the Islamic movement in Jordan and said that this was obvious in the new information policies.

Furthermore, Dr. Abbadi attacked the ministers of agriculture, tourism and others who, he said, were responsible for shameful actions while serving in government positions.

He also criticised Mr. Masri for saying that he was keen on placing the right man in the right job and said that the team of ministers are all unqualified for their positions because of their relations with or because of doing business with the prime minister.

Dr. Abbadi accused the prime minister of contacting Israeli personalities abroad and questioned Mr. Masri's having an American passport. He asked why Mr. Masri was not living in the West Bank and "preferred to come to the Kingdom leaving the country to the Soviet and Ethiopian Jews."

Dr. Abbadi said that Mr. Masri and his team who he claimed to have a shameful past should not be given a vote of confidence by Parliament and the people. He called on the government to submit its resignation.

Abdul Majid Shreideh
Irbid Deputy Abdul Majid Shreideh reminded Parliament members that Jordan was still suffering as a result of the Gulf crisis because Parliament members and other groups supported Iraq during the crisis. He warned that Jordan, which is still facing part of the embargo imposed on Iraq, was bound to fall victim to an act of revenge on the part of those countries allied against Iraq.

Mr. Shreideh said that although the Jordanian leadership was steering the boat safely, the enemies of Jordan want to destabilise the Kingdom and instigate internal trouble and disturbances.

"Your house of Parliament was instrumental in haranguing the public to take the side of Iraq and deputies speeches were heard by various countries of the world. But you might not realise the fact that such attitude would sooner or later cause Jordan to pay the price for such a behaviour," said Mr. Shreideh in his address.

He cautioned members of Parliament to be responsible in their stands and their speeches and to avoid their previous stands that forced the Jordanian leadership to bless such attitudes out of respect for Parliament's views, with the result that Jordan found itself standing alone among countries of the world confronting Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

"Stop inflaming the feelings of people, otherwise you will expose your country and yourselves to the flame and help Israel to reap the fruits," said Mr. Shreideh.

The deputy reminded his colleagues that the Kingdom was continually facing conspiracies and dangers more now than at any time in the past.

"We have to stop playing with the words and rhetorics and get down to business and serve our people," he said. "(The Jordanian people) are no more taken in by words and promises and empty slogans but require action on the part of the legislative and executive authorities."

Mr. Shreideh criticised rumours that allege that the new government came in order to open negotiations with Israel and said that Jordan can by no means act as a substitute for the Palestinians.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and no Jordanian government can possibly assume that responsibility," he said.

Mr. Shreideh called on the government and Parliament to enhance national unity and end differences in view of the magnitude of the heavy responsibilities facing it.

Ziyad Al Shweikh
Deputy Ziyad Al Shweikh presented a number of demands and proposals to the new government urging it to give due concern to the question of income generating projects.

He said that one third of Jordan's population are students that are unproductive members of the society. The government ought to find means to direct the students towards subjects that would help them become useful and productive citizens, especially in agriculture, Mr. Shweikh said.

Mr. Shweikh called on the government to stem the importation of consumer goods to save hard currency and to give due attention to the development of the rural regions through promoting the work of municipal and rural councils.

The deputy said that promoting rural life, the government can succeed in stemming the move of people from rural to urban regions.

He also called on the government to raise the salaries of government employees which, he said, are low and not sufficient to meet the soaring cost of living.

The deputy gave special attention in his address to the city of Aqaba. By promoting tourism, the country can ensure good revenues, he said. He urged the government to transform the port city into a free zone to boost its trade.

Mr. Shweikh, who voiced his support to the prime minister and his cabinet, condemned all allegations and accusations levelled against the government and called for close cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

Saad Haddadin
Madaba deputy Saad Haddadin said that at a time when Jordan was passing through a difficult period and when the country was in need of man to shoulder responsibilities, the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri was formed very quickly, in a way that does not conform to the seriousness of the current stage.

Mr. Masri's government, he said, "is not different from other governments," whether in the negative or positive aspects. It is a natural extension of the former government, having only its prime minister and promises as the new features.

"It is not important to draft a long policy statement that contains all the aspirations of the people and the suitable solution to our exacerbating economic and social problems; the important thing is the execution of the programmes in reality," he said.

Mr. Haddadin added: "I am certain the government will find it difficult to carry out the programme contained in its policy statement because it did not offer real solutions."

The Madaba district deputy expressed hope that the government would adopt a clear strategy in preparing its policies and programmes so as to avoid failure.

He proposed that the government set up a specialised council for every ministry to programme its policies and strategies. "Thus, the policies of the ministries will not be exposed to abrupt change and moody behaviour," he added.

Matir Al Bustanji
Deputy Matir Al Bustanji focused attention on a number of domestic areas with special attention being given to agriculture in Jordan.

Mr. Bustanji, who is rapporteur to the Independent Islamic Bloc, said that he hoped the new government would work out plans to enable Jordan to become self-reliant, gradually free itself from importing food and reducing the volume of external debts.

Mr. Bustanji said that by boosting agriculture, the government would be helping to put a stop to the move of people from rural to urban regions, especially in the south where conditions for farmers are worsening following the flood storms in the past winter that caused a lot of damage to the crops and agricultural infrastructure.

"In the 1970s, Jordan was self-sufficient of milk, meat and table eggs. But now the country imports 90 per cent of its wheat and animal feed and a lot of other food commodities and this is largely due to the lack of incentives given to the farmers and the improper agricultural policies prompting the farmers to abandon their land," he said.

Mr. Bustanji called on the new government to deal promptly with the question of salinity in soil and the treated water which is used to irrigate farmlands. He urged the concerned authorities to give due attention to the Badia region, where earth dams should be built to collect rain water for farming.

"We need to see proper agricultural plans to help the country overcome its requirements and we need to have universities turning out competent engineers that are able to help the country boost production," Mr. Bustanji said.

Youssef Mubayyidin
Deputy Youssef Mubayyidin, who speaks for the Constitution Bloc in Parliament, said that he had scrutinised the government's policy statement and determined his vote depends on the government's replies to his queries.

Mr. Mubayyidin said that the government's statement was full of promises about health insurance, cost of living, and dealing with unemployment, etc. But all the deputies, as well as the government leaders, realise the limited means the government has in the light of the 1991 fiscal budget.

He said he wanted the government to revise its promises and be specific and to win the support of Parliament and public.

Referring to the government's policy regarding education and higher education, the deputy said that he found not a single sentence pledging to adopt any programme to promote Islam and Islamic education in schools. He suggested that the government re-examine its position in this respect.

On foreign affairs, he said that the government failed to give specifics about its position with regard to the settlements proposed to the Arabs by the Western nations and also on the government's intention to heal the rifts within Arab ranks.

Nawwaf Al Khawaldah
Deputy Nawwaf Al Khawaldah from the National Bloc told the session that the government policy statement was comprehensive, covering all issues of concern to Jordanian citizens.

Mr. Khawaldah criticised those who waste the time in rhetoric while doing nothing in practice to serve their country. He urged the government to give due attention to the questions of unemployment, the soaring cost of living and the state of agriculture. He said that he would support the government.

Mahmoud Hweimeh
Deputy Mahmoud Hweimeh praised the government for announcing its intention to deal with matters of concern to the southern regions of the country.

Mr. Hweimeh said that the southern regions, more than other provinces in the country, are plagued by unemployment, poor farming and limited means of income. The government, he said, can give due attention to the farming and water supply problems in the south and reschedule the farmers' debts in order to stimulate agricultural life in the various regions of southern Jordan.

In the past winter season, Mr. Hweimeh said, the farmers of the south lost about 90 per cent of their crops and lost their income this year.

Together with the accumulating debts, the farmers can no longer survive without government subsidies and immediate assistance, Mr. Hweimeh said.

The deputy also urged the government to conduct a scientific study on the polluted water and to determine the causes of the damage to the crops as soon as possible.

Qasem Obeldat
Deputy Qasem Obeldat supported the views of the National Bloc in Parliament and attacked those deputies who levelled accusations at the government.

Dr. Obeldat said those deputies who had served in former governments had themselves committed blunders and did not resign their posts in protest of irregularities or unorthodox policies.

He said these same deputies are attacking the new government, which has not yet committed any wrongs.

Dr. Obeldat said that deputies opposing the new government had been hoping to get ministerial portfolios and having failed to attain that, they vented their anger in their addresses to Parliament.

Nayef Al Hadid
Central Jordan bedouins' Deputy Nayef Al Hadid said the government had voiced commitment to the Constitution and the National Charter and showed awareness of the problems facing the country and the Arab Nation. This, he said, stressed the government's determination to tackle internal and external problems.

Mr. Hadid called for cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities and cohesion among Jordanians under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein to make Jordan a source of power and a good example for the Arab and Islamic nations.

He said it would be fair enough not to judge the members of the Masri cabinet before they start since they have expressed their will to face the challenges in the policy statement.

"We tell the ministers in advance that Palestine is our sublime goal... and that we support Iraq with all we have," Mr. Hadid said.

Hisham Al Sharari
Deputy Hisham Al Sharari addressed the session demanding that the government give more attention to the people's army and the agricultural sector. He said that the government should set up a special fund to compensate farmers for their losses and should lift a ban on drilling artesian wells in the Maan district which he represents.

Mr. Sharari demanded that the government reschedule farmers' debts and give greater attention to the unemployment problem in the southern regions of Jordan.

Mr. Sharari said that Parliament had heard a great deal of promises from the past governments and now it hears new promises from the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri.

Husni Al Shiyab
Deputy Husni Shiyab focused Parliament's attention on the need to bolster national unity and said that any ideological or political splits in the country or any exploitation of the faith was bound to bring about collapse.

Dr. Shiyab said that the government ought to re-examine the composition of the cabinet by involving all the groups and factions so that it can be rightly called a coalition government. He said national unity is a strong weapon Jordan has been holding against its enemies and the time has come to boost such unity by all possible means.

What the government should address is the deteriorating economic and social conditions affecting the majority of the population. Such matters, if properly handled, can further enhance national unity, he said.

Bassam Haddadin
Zarqa Deputy Bassam Haddadin called for the continuation of cooperation among the active political powers in Jordan for the interest of the country and its people.

"We wish that all political parties which took part in drafting the national charter participate in the Masri cabinet to make it a national charter government in shape and content," he said.

He said his Democratic Bloc, on which behalf Deputy Fakhri Qawar delivered a speech Tuesday, was keen on safeguarding the democratic process and providing it with the suitable climate to guarantee its success.

He said he would forgive the government if it fails to achieve some of the programmes it mentioned in its policy statement but would never forgive it if overlooked the need to distribute the burdens of the economic crisis on all members of the society rather than on the working class only.

Ali Al Faqir
Amman Deputy Ali Al Faqir said he did not view Mr. Masri's government as a negotiations government "but a government to prepare for negotiations if Israel agreed to the principle of peace."

"I reassure you there will be no negotiations because I base my argument on (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's stubbornness even if we give more concessions than is required," he said.

One of Mr. Masri's advantages that should be taken into consideration, he said, is that the government was clear in expressing its identity through the quality of its members. "It distanced itself away from flattery and hypocrisy and expressed itself eloquently," Mr. Faqir said.

Mr. Faqir asked the government to state its position on the stage that will follow the negotiations "if they take place," and what it will do if such negotiations did not take place.

U.N. panel welcomes report
(Continued from page 1)

including the reasons behind such a declaration and the rights that have been suspended because of the existence of a state of emergency in the country.

Article 4 states that "in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which is officially proclaimed, the state parties to the covenant may take measures derogating from their obligations under the present covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation."

Paragraph 2 of the same article stipulates that "no derogation from articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 18 may be made under this provision."

"Articles 6 is about the right to life and the death penalty which must be confined to only the most serious crimes after the application of the full due process of the law including the rights of appeal."

Article 7 prohibits torture, cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment.

Article 8 outlaws slavery and servitude.

Article 11 prohibits imprisonment on ground of inability to fulfill a contractual obligation. The imprisonment of persons giving bad cheques seems to come within the purview of this provision.

Article 15 speaks against the retrospective application of criminal law.

Finally Article 18 provides that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

In other words such basic rights cannot be suspended even when a state of emergency is in force. Clearly Jordan has not met all its obligations under the covenant. On the other hand, no one expects it to either. The purpose of the dialogue between the committee and the government of Jordan is to help it improve its civil and political rights situation in a bid to comply at the end with the terms and principles of the covenant."

The COPPER SCROLL
The Most Mysterious of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Al-Wolters of Redeems College in Canada will lecture on the only Dead Sea scroll housed in Amman

Thursday 18th July 1991
7:00 p.m.

At the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) in front of Jordan University.

New English examination session to be held for West Bank tawjihi students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has decided to organise a new examination session in English for West Bank tawjihi students now that it is convinced that the English language examination was the only one tampered with and was conducted in an atmosphere without discipline and where cheating was rampant.

The decision was announced here by the Director of the Ministry's Examination and Evaluation Department, Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeldat, who said that members of examination committees in the West Bank recently visited the ministry in Amman and emphasised this fact.

The move to suspend the tawjihi examinations in the West Bank was taken earlier this month because of alleged cheating and lack of discipline in the examination halls. The move was supported by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The suspension followed reports that the Israeli authorities had opened the examination halls and allowed irresponsible elements to sabotage the examination process with the purpose of creating anarchy, according to PLO Executive Committee Member Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri had said that the resumption of the examination would take place once a favourable educational climate was guaranteed for the 12,000 tawjihi students in the West Bank.

In his statement Wednesday to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Obeldat did not disclose when the examination would be held but said that the examination committees in the West Bank would deal with this matter later.

In his statement on July 8, the PLO official voiced appreciation to Jordan for its continued cooperation with the PLO's Higher Education Department in organising the examination and running school curricula in the West Bank despite difficulties.

RJ inaugurates flights to Colombo
AMMAN (J.T.) — The national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) Wednesday launched its new route to Sri Lanka in implementation of an agreement concluded last month with Air Lanka (UL) providing for twice weekly flights between Amman and Colombo.

The Amman-Colombo-Amman route was agreed on between the two airlines which said in a statement on June 29 that they would be operating joint services along this route.

An RJ statement said that the joint service agreement, which was concluded last month, provides for flights between the two capitals on board RJ's Airbus 310 on Wednesdays and Fridays. This service will open new scopes of air travel between Sri Lanka and Jordan and the Middle East, North Africa, western and southern Europe, the U.S. and Canada, the RJ statement said.

Previously, passengers from Jordan and the surrounding countries had to travel to Sri Lanka using more than one airline and making an overnight stop in the Gulf region.

According to the RJ statement, the service is assured success by the joint marketing to be conducted by both national airlines thanks to the connections provided in Amman by RJ and in Colombo by UL.

On board the first direct flight to Colombo Wednesday were RJ Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh, Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Jamal Balqaz and Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul in Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajeel.

Also on board were representatives of tourist and travel offices, senior RJ officials and representatives of the Jordanian media.

During the visit to Colombo, RJ and UL will formally sign documents inaugurating the new route.

New national theatre to set new standards in local production
By Vesna Masharqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After 25 years of efforts exerted to establish a professional theatre in the Kingdom, the Jordanian actors, artists and theatre-goers welcomed the announcement, by Dr. Khalid Karaki at the closing ceremony of the first Jordanian theatre festival last week, of the establishment of the Jordanian National Theatre.

According to a Cultural Ministry spokesman, the Jordanian National Theatre's pursuit will be to set a high standard in the local theatre production by elaborating local cultural heritage and incorporating it into modern day drama productions.

With this goal in mind, Dr. Karaki formed the Supervising Committee on Jordanian National Theatre project, which is assigned to elaborate and finalise the project. The members of the committee are: Dr. Hanni Snobar, the director of the committee, Mr. Hatem Al Said, Nabeel Al Mashini, Jamal Awad and Mohammad Kabani.

Mr. Al Said, a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that the committee had finalised the project and had submitted it to Dr. Karaki for assessment before the festival.

"Our main task now is to sponsor the project's implementation, which entails selecting the national theatre working team, and stimulating local playwrights to produce a distinguished Jordanian script, which is now missing in our theatrical production."

"Our aim is also to direct the theatre art movement in the Kingdom, which will carry the imprints of the local cultural heritage, and to revive theatre consciousness and healthy art taste in our society," Mr. Al Said said.

The Ministry of Culture and Information allocated a minimal annual budget to the National Theatre, which is JD 60,000. It is supposed to cover the salaries of the theatre's permanent members. The other expenses are to be financed by the private sector.

"The committee's first step is to select 25 professional actors, among them 15 first category actors and 10 second category actors, to be the permanent members of the group."

The first category is referred to an actor with ten years of theatrical experience and participation in five remarkable plays. Regarding a second category actor, the criterion is five years of working experience and participation in five distinguished plays. All actors are required to be members of the Jordanian Artists League, Mr. Al Said added.

"To the wake of the Gulf crisis, the Jordanian theatrical production is in an ascending position. It is true that we lost market for our art products in the Gulf countries, but it didn't bring destruction to the art industry, as it was expected by our art experts. The foundation of the Jordanian National Theatre, as well as the festival itself, is a proof that the Jordanian cultural production has a rich soil for a constant, creative art reproduction," he concluded.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has decided to organise a new examination session in English for West Bank tawjihi students now that it is convinced that the English language examination was the only one tampered with and was conducted in an atmosphere without discipline and where cheating was rampant.

The decision was announced here by the Director of the Ministry's Examination and Evaluation Department, Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeldat, who said that members of examination committees in the West Bank recently visited the ministry in Amman and emphasised this fact.

The move to suspend the tawjihi examinations in the West Bank was taken earlier this month because of alleged cheating and lack of discipline in the examination halls. The move was supported by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The suspension followed reports that the Israeli authorities had opened the examination halls and allowed irresponsible elements to sabotage the examination process with the purpose of creating anarchy, according to PLO Executive Committee Member Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri had said that the resumption of the examination would take place once a favourable educational climate was guaranteed for the 12,000 tawjihi students in the West Bank.

In his statement Wednesday to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Obeldat did not disclose when the examination would be held but said that the examination committees in the West Bank would deal with this matter later.

In his statement on July 8, the PLO official voiced appreciation to Jordan for its continued cooperation with the PLO's Higher Education Department in organising the examination and running school curricula in the West Bank despite difficulties.

RJ inaugurates flights to Colombo
AMMAN (J.T.) — The national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) Wednesday launched its new route to Sri Lanka in implementation of an agreement concluded last month with Air Lanka (UL) providing for twice weekly flights between Amman and Colombo.

The Amman-Colombo-Amman route was agreed on between the two airlines which said in a statement on June 29 that they would be operating joint services along this route.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

A columnist in *Al Dastour* Arabic daily expressed regret over a campaign launched by members of parliament against the local press. Some elements in the legislative and even the executive authorities are not happy about the local press' dealings with different topics at a time when these two authorities ought to joint efforts to ensure further freedom from the press in view of the democratic process going on in Jordan, said Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud. The writer noted that one of the newly appointed ministers has been quoted as threatening to sue some of the Jordanian journalists in court because his departments were exposed to some criticism due to lack of competence. This threat is totally rejected by the journalists and the press at large, because it can never intimidate the writers who want to expose the facts to the public. One of the deputies was quoted as accusing journalists of selling themselves to the devil and trying to undermine the Islamic faith in Jordan, said Daoud. We had wanted to be convinced that the parliament and government members were really exposed to undue campaigns in the press, but the facts indicate otherwise, said the writer. He said that it should be emphasised that the press has a noble role to play and that it is to call attention to the errors and abuse of authority so that reform can be introduced and mistakes avoided.

Many Western countries will also be keen not to let the process go too far. Britain, for one, will not welcome any outside attempt to dictate its policies in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Hoshiyoh
 Merchant
 JP 1,250

Nazar Al-Nawabiah
 Amman - Employee
 Half-life JP 750

Yusef Al-Samirah
 Amman - Student
 Full-time JP 1,000

1991
Headquarters:

are issued from GUVS headquarters.

Iraqi musician seeks Western horizons

By Sereno Halsea
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — He is defying his world and his culture. He wants to break the chains of tradition. Armed with ambition and a deep rooted talent, Iraqi-born singer Qassem Sabunji has already made a name for himself in Jordan, and is seeking to do the same outside the Arab World.

His fascination with music started at the age of three. In an interview with the Weekender, Sabunji fondly remembers his first music instrument. "I saw an accordion at a music shop and cried until my parents bought it for me," he recalled. "It was then that I discovered I loved music."

Following his first experience with the accordion,

Sabunji got hold of his first guitar. "I was seven years old, and I loved my guitar. It was the fashion back then to own one," he explained.

His fascination with music grew as he became older, and his ambition was to become a "professional" singer. "But that was unheard of in Iraq, especially for males. Music was just a hobby not a career," he said.

Obsessed with music, Sabunji embarked on a self-learning path and taught himself to play different kinds of musical instruments. "I don't read notes, I depend on my musical ear," he asserted.

In order not to estrange himself from his family and society, Sabunji enrolled at the University of Jordan where he got his Bachelor's

Degree in business administration. And although he agreed to do that, music was still in his soul, and he refused to give up his dream of making it big.

After he graduated, Sabunji joined a popular band in Jordan, and worked with them for a year. "It was not what I wanted, but it was fun and I gained a great experience," he said. "But with time I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to compose and play my own music."

The first time he started composing music was in 1985. He incorporated in his music different styles that suited the time.

Sabunji believes that "it is important for a singer to take in and teach himself all styles of music."

Among some of his famed achievements are nine songs which he composed during the Gulf crisis last August. Sabunji explained that the style he used in composing those songs was different from regular Arabic songs. "They are close to Ziad Rahbani's style of musical composition," he improvised the songs to give them a Western style, he added.

Sabunji also composed an English song entitled Children Of The World, which was used in a documentary about Iraq. "Children Of The World is about us — the people of the world — it is for Iraqis and everybody," he said.

Reflecting on the plight of his homeland following the war, Sabunji said that his

music, especially the most recent ones, mirrored a certain atmosphere in his war-torn country. "I express myself in my music," he said. "And one should always be able to transpose and reach the audience through music."

The 28-year-old singer said he was proud of his achievements so far, but felt that he was still "green" in many ways, especially in a profession such as his. "It's a jungle out there," he said. "I want to improve my talent, but I need help and backup from the right people."

Sabunji said he felt that the Arab World in general has still a long way to go in accepting professional singers. One major problem is the lack of copyright laws that protect a musician's

composition.

Sabunji explained that without copyright laws artists, singers, and writers do not get credit for many of their creations. "When an artist is protected, then his financial income doubles, even triples, and his creativity increases, especially if he feels that his work is appreciated."

"Music is music and (that is why it) should not be restricted to people who do it for the money," he said. "It's sad — having no copyright laws is a sad thing."

Sabunji wants to try his luck in the Western World, hoping that he would be able to break the chains of tradition and make a name for himself professionally.



Qassem Sabunji

(Photo by Cathy Harval)

Belgium honours creator of cartoon globetrotter Tintin

By Kristin Kranenberg
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Belgium's bland but beloved globetrotter, cartoon hero Tintin, is spending a summer at home.



Herge viewed himself chained at his drawing board; with him are (from left) Captain Haddock, Tintin, Dr. Calculus and the twins Thomson and Thompson.

The young reporter, whose adventures solving crimes and mysteries from Peru to China left him little time to do his job as a journalist, is starring in two exhibitions.

Organisers claim the exhibition that opened last month in Welkenraedt, eastern Belgium, is the biggest ever devoted to Tintin's creator, the late Georges Remi — better known under his pen-name of Herge — and his colourful cast of characters.

Admired by people as diverse as the late French President Charles de Gaulle and pop artist Andy Warhol, Tintin's round, innocent face and distinctive quiff of ginger hair have endeared him to millions around the world since he first appeared in a weekly magazine in 1929.

"Tintin is known by everybody, through all generations," said Maria Randisi, whose advertising agency has devised a poster for Belgian mineral water showing a man and his grandson equally absorbed in a Tintin album.

In cartoon-mad Belgium, Herge reigns supreme. Another collection of Tintin books and gadgets is about to

go on display in the town of Bruges, on the other side of the country.

"Fifteen years after the appearance of the last Tintin album, Tintin mania is flourishing as never before," the Flemish newspaper De Standaard said recently.

The exhibition at Welkenraedt includes a pyramid of Tintin albums in different languages. The 23 books have been translated into 41 languages, most recently Hungarian. They have sold more than 140 million copies.

Also on display are Herge's first drawings, made in the early 1920s for a Boy Scout magazine, and his original artwork for the Tintin albums.

Most of the items belong to Belgian actor Stephane Steeman, a lifelong fan and collector of Tintin memorabilia. He organised the show with local authorities.

There is a mock-up of the

opium den from The Blue Lotus, the 1935 adventure set in China, and a range of cardboard mountains to recreate the atmosphere of Tintin in Tibet.

Broken glass on the exhibition hall floor is supposed to be the product of the shattering voice of opera singer Bianca Castafiore, the only prominent female in the albums.

Tintinologists think the hero's lack of any real character is one of the main reasons for his success.

"Tintin is easy to identify with because he has no outstanding traits," said Patrice Cros, who works in a smart shop selling Tintin memorabilia in the centre of Brussels.

Products range from a simple T-shirt costing \$19 to a big statue of the reporter and his loyal dog Milou (Snowy in English) for \$160.

Cros said Tintin's com-

rades — the whisky-guzzling Captain Haddock and the incompetent detectives, the Thomson twins — more than make up for the reporter's own lack of character.

Tintin admirers also say Herge, who died in 1983, set new standards in bright, distinctive cartoon art.

But the author faced charges that his albums were racist, portraying Africans and other ethnic groups as semi-literate and inferior to white people.

He was also accused of collaborating with the Nazis when they occupied Belgium during World War II by writing stories for a German-controlled newspaper.

Those allegations matter little to Belgians, who regard Herge as a national institution. Shops in every major town and city in the country sell cartoons of all descriptions — but they nearly always include a rack of Tintin.



Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi

Montgolfier's dream comes true

By Patrick Olivier

"My poor Joseph! It's a good thing we're paper-manufacturers, with all the reams you use up scribbling." Etienne Montgolfier teases his brother Joseph, who has indeed been scribbling away ever since, one day in 1783, he had a brilliant idea which was to make him the most famous scientist of his time, a conqueror of the skies.

PARIS — On returning home from a walk in the mountains of his native Auvergne, he told his wife, Therese, how enchanted he was to observe the flight of birds of prey, which he had, once more, watched for a long time. He was particularly struck by the buzzard. Barely after taking off, it hardly moved and remained stationary in the sky. Just like fear and many men since then, Joseph Montgolfier dreamt of being free in the sky too. And he was to achieve his dream.

Coming down from the mountains, he passed a little girl blowing bubbles which rose in the air. "Why? How?" Joseph wondered. "It's just like clouds... they can manage to fly," he thought. That same evening, his wife asked him to warm her nightgown by the fire, which he did by hanging it up in front of the hearth. And to his astonishment, it rose up in the air. "That's it," he thought. Some canvas and hot air, Joseph, who had an

idea every three minutes, quickly imagined the same thing on a large scale.

He set to work with his brother Etienne. There was soon to be a fête in Annonay, the large town of the province. He made a sort of balloon with canvas and paper and tested it out for the first time before the transfixed villagers. He made a big fire and kept it going with bales of straw. Using the hot air, he filled the canvas which gradually took on a rounded shape and started to pull on the retaining ropes. The ropes were cut and the balloon suddenly surged up in the air. Soon, it was no more than a spot in the sky. It was later found a few leagues away. The experiment had proved a success. The Montgolfier brothers called their invention an aerostat, meaning "which stays in the air." In French, the hot air balloon was later to be called a "Montgolfiere."

Montgolfier keenly pursued his research. It had to be possible for a man to fly in the air for the first time "like

clouds." But it was a difficult thing to envisage. There was danger from the fire. The material making the balloon was highly inflammable: Canvas and paper and a kind of stove fuelled by straw to swell

the balloon. There was also the curious fear at the time, that one would lack air to breathe even by gaining just a little altitude.

By now, the whole country had heard about the experi-

ment. The king himself, who was very interested in science, summoned Montgolfier to Versailles, gave him a grant of 600 pounds and even made him a member of the Royal Academy. It was decided to carry out a

first experiment using animals (in the 20th century, the dog Laika was to be the first creature in space). This time, they decided to use a sheep, a cock and a duck. On Sept. 23, 1783, everything was

ready at Versailles for the big take-off. A balloon, "as big as a house" had been prepared, made of vellum (calf-skin) and still having paper on the inside and outside. The balloon was sumptuously decorated. It was painted sky-blue, had gold fleurs-de-lys and bore the royal initials: 2 Ls (for Louis) facing each other.

The balloon was inflated, using many bundles of straw. The three animals were put in the basket and the balloon was released. It rose rapidly sideways and disappeared. Ten kilometres away, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, the sheep was found grazing and the cock fighting with the duck.

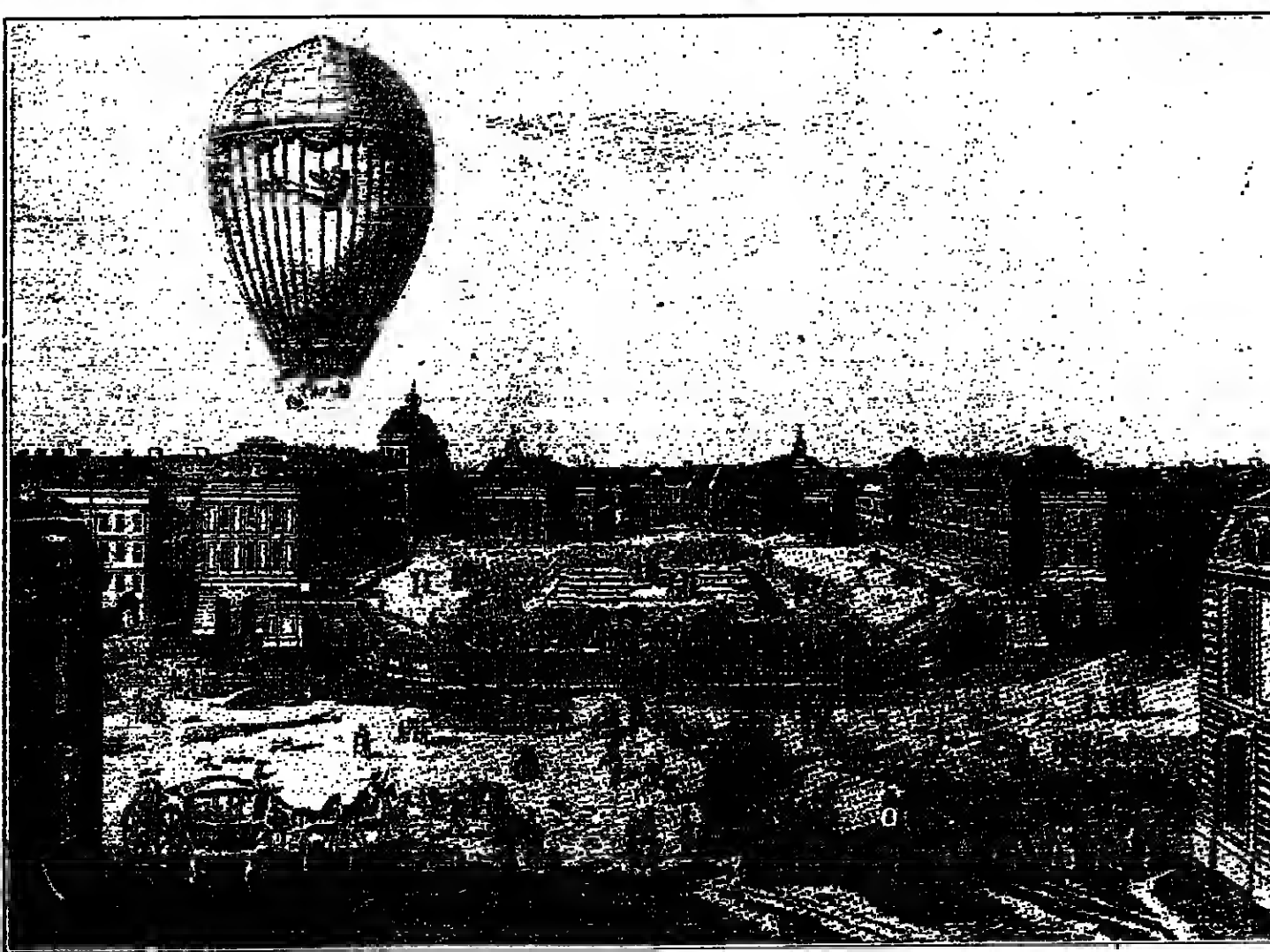
Now that it had been proved that one could survive in the air, a manned flight had to be attempted. The king refused as it was too dangerous. Montgolfier insisted. If the French did not persevere, others would. The English, for example, who did not appreciate France's aid to young America. Montgolfier waxed lyrical: "Just let Your Majesty imagine! Millions of men, carried in millions of balloons invading France."

An unknown man, Pilâtre de Rozier, aged 24, had gone to see Montgolfier to volunteer. He was absolutely set on taking part and becoming the first man to rise in the air. Queen Marie-Antoinette strongly urged the king, who

finally gave in. On Nov. 21, 1783, the big day dawned. Montgolfier had decided to give De Rozier an assistant, the Marquis d'Arlandes. This time, the fire would have to be kept up from the basket, by stoking it with bales of straw.

When the balloon inflated, a cannon sounded. It rose above the lawns of La Muette in the Bois de Boulogne, but it was impossible to steer it and it had to be left to the wind. It started losing height and the two men quickly stoked the fire. Paris passed by beneath their gaze. They almost caught the towers of Saint-Sulpice Church and nearly fell in the Seine. Then, they rose very high. Too high. Nearly 1,000 metres up. There was an ominous sound. Pilâtre was alarmed. No, the canvas had not split, but there was a big hole in the bottom of the iron-bound wicker basket. "We must get down," Pilâtre shouted to his companion. They reached the Luxembourg Gardens and then the southern boundaries of the city. The balloon finally landed between two windmills on the Butte aux Cailles hill. The first human flight had lasted 25 minutes.

What an event! Historians consider that it created as much of an impression at the time a man walking on the moon in the 20th century. The Montgolfier brothers became personalities overnight — L'Actualite En France.



A Montgolfier rises above the Palace of Versailles.

Is it a boy or a girl?

By Maha Addasi

Maternity wards everywhere are the same in many aspects. There are often fathers-to-be pacing the floors nervously puffing away at cigarettes and once the child is born they feel like grabbing the first person they see leaving the delivery theatre to inquire: "Is it a boy," with a beaming hopeful smile. "Or a girl?" they continue as the smile fades away as they silently pray that it is a boy. "The problem is," according to one psychologist, "many of these fathers and some mothers do not know why they want a baby boy even though some already have five boys at home and no girls," the psychologist said.

What follows is an attempt by various parents or parents-to-be as to why they may prefer one gender over the other when it comes to new additions to their families, as well as some examples that may make people change these views.

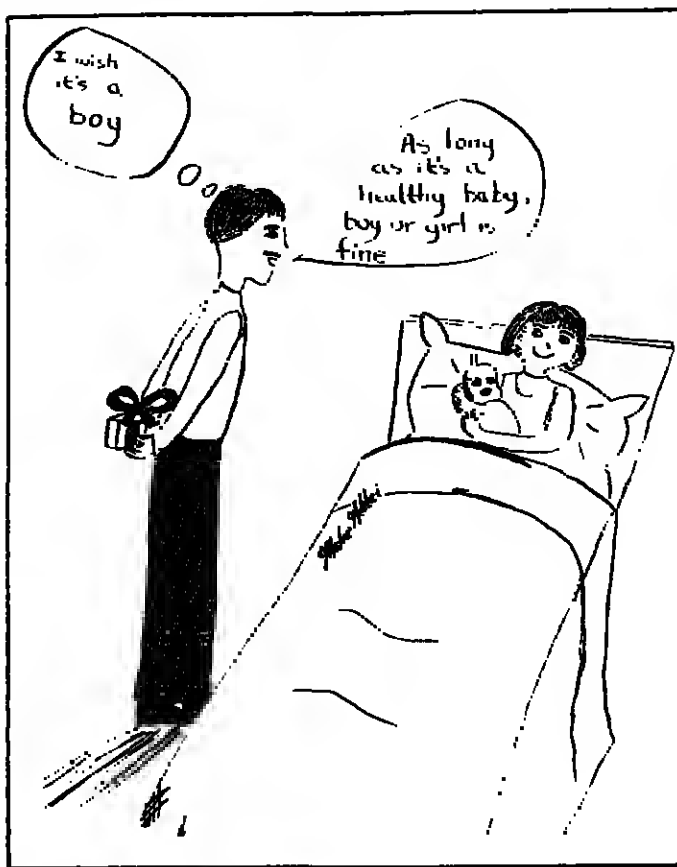
"I know this person who fell ill when his wife had a baby girl. When she had another girl he got sick again. The third baby his wife had was also a girl. When the father heard that he faints," one witness said. "Now he has three adult girls and two boys. The boys are abroad working and the father rarely sees them and the girls are married but live close to the family and make their parents bappy, dropping in all the time with their children. Now the father believes that had it not been for the girls he and his wife would have been deserted, the witness said.

The flip side to this is another extreme. "One mother of six boys wanted a daughter very much. When she failed to have one, she started putting ribbons in the boys' hair and dressing them like girls," one woman said of someone she knew.

"Now her kids are all grown up and they all work abroad, and she is left with drawers full of ribbons and no children around her. I do not want to know how they dress now, though, long hair and ear rings would be my guess," the woman said. "I think this mother knew all along the value of having daughters."

The moral here is that more often than not girls settle close to home after marriage, while single, and a large number of married men today manage to find their way far from home in order to find a job. "This in turn is because society allows men to live alone and not women," the psychologist said. "I sometimes wonder why people still prefer boys to girls, when it is the girls who really make a parent feel like a parent."

"I always felt it would be easier to bring up a boy than a girl," one mother said. "I thought I would not need to apply curfews on boys and felt that it would be OK for them to stay out late," she said. Adding that this was when her twin sons were 3. "I forgot that if we multiplied their



age by 6 and added a car a curfew would become vital. Now, I feel there is no difference between girls and boys when it comes to bringing them up. They're equal in the effect they require," she said.

"Girls and boys alike have managed to carry on family businesses. Both genders have been successful. Girls carry a family name even after marriage," said one father of four girls who are now successfully running the family business.

"When a child is born it is an 'it' or referred to as such mainly because it has no personality yet. It is up to the parents to allow a child's personality to grow in a healthy way. What is the use if the son has a weak personality?" the psychologist said.

"If all parents bring up their children of both genders the same way, and appreciate what they have since some people cannot have children, then when people at hospitals ask, 'Is it a boy or a girl?' they would ask just to know and not to torture themselves," she said. "And that is a day I am waiting to see."

Pet cemetery

By E. Yaghi

"Boo hoo, boo hoo!" chorused the stern red-eyed mourners who gathered around in sympathy sharing their mutual loss of Debbie, a cherished member of the Sanders family.

Debbie's life had been short but full and she had been loved by all. She always had a knack of making friends easily. For example, there was the old lady up the street who simply adored her. She would sit in her rocking chair by her bay window, waiting for the sound of Debbie's approaching footsteps. As soon as she caught sight of her little friend, she would say, "And how's my lovely Debbie today? Come here dear and sit on my lap!"

At such invitation, Debbie would bappy bounce on the old lady's lap and anoint her with slobbery wet kisses. Now, the old lady still sat in her rocking chair, but she no longer smiled. She was gloomy and sad. She would listen for Debbie's footsteps even though she knew her little friend had passed away she couldn't bear to think that no one could ever replace dear Debbie.

As for Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, they were heart-broken. Debbie had been the sun that they revolved around. Whenever she came down with the slightest wheeze, the Sanders became very concerned and would rush her to the nearest doctor. "Will she be all right?" a fretful Mrs. Sanders would ask.

"Is it serious?" an equally worried Mr. Sanders would inquire. But the calm doctor would reassure them. "It's nothing but a slight cold. Let her stay in bed for a while and she'll be OK."

One beautiful summer day, when bees were humming and there was a smell of green leaves in the air, precious Debbie was out romping in the streets and chasing her favourite ball. She didn't see the speeding car that struck her down and snatched away her life. The careless driver didn't even stop to see if his hit-and-run victim survived or not. He just laughed out of his window with a cruel smirk on his face and drove off.

That was the end of a vibrant and faithful life. Debbie bounced no more. Her effervescent personality had popped. She was taken to a funeral home to be prepared for burial. An expensive tombstone was tearfully chosen. On the day of the funeral, mourners stood around the small grave, their heads bowed in dismal mutual silence. Mrs. Sanders could not stand the pain of losing her treasured one. She broke down and cried as the small ornate coffin, laden with red and white carnations was gently lowered in its grave.

After the funeral and the reception was over, the Sanders sat in their empty house which was filled with dark rooms and cried. Later, they often visited her grave and placed bouquets of sweet smelling flowers at the tombstone

above the grave where Debbie lay all alone.

Life must go on for the living, so the Sanders returned to their difficult daily routines. Then one day, an acquaintance telephoned with this message. "Hello, Mrs. Sanders, I'm afraid I have some bad news. Debbie's not buried where you think she is! You've been deceived! My precious also died and was buried in the same cemetery like Debbie. A mass grave has been uncovered. Many families of the deceased feel that something fishy has been going on!"

Mrs. Sanders felt flabbergasted. She and her husband rushed to the cemetery and demanded to see the director of the pet cemetery who was responsible for the burial of dead Debbie. The director, however, was unavailable for comment. So the Sanders and other caring and perturbed families of their deceased beloved formed a committee to investigate the ugly rumours of grave misdeeds. At last, after much paper and dirt digging, the truth was revealed and the director of the cemetery was arrested.

As the director tried to make himself invisible and slink into the police car, he was mobbed by the tearful, screaming families of the inhabitants of the cemetery. Their expressions were contorted with pain and great giant tears rolled down their faces as they shouted, "Liar! Thief! You buried our loved ones in mass graves! Hang him! He doesn't deserve to live!"

It was more than Mrs. Sanders could bear. She laid her head on Mr. Sanders' firm shoulder for support and comfort. She had just seen the evidence of tufts of hair and parched bones that were haphazardly mixed with earth in a mass grave where her own Debbie had later been dumped.

"Don't worry, dear," her husband said, reassuring her. "He'll pay for his crimes. The judge will punish him and lock him away. No jury will let him go free when they see the heartbreaking sight of mass graves! We must be brave! We must think about getting another Debbie!"

Courageously, Mrs. Sanders wiped away her tears and said, "We've been so deceived. To think our little Debbie was lying in a mass grave when we thought she was happily buried where we saw her placed on the day of the funeral. How deceptive and cruel the director of the pet cemetery is. I hope he'll be severely punished! I never really realised just how much Debbie meant to us until we lost her. Now I know that life is just too dreary without her. You are right! We must go and adopt another adorable dog just like our precious and call her Debbie Junior!"

Debbie's remains have been scooped up and laid to rest in a proper grave. And never fear, for Mr. and Mrs. Sanders now have a bouncing baby pup called Debbie Junior who will take Debbie Senior's place. Everyone's happy but the director of the pet cemetery who presently sits behind bars in a prison where he deserves to be for his deception of wise fools and disrespect for the beloved deceased pets of bereaved families.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 18

64 — Great fire of Rome begins, and legend is that Emperor Nero set the blaze and played his fiddle as Rome burned.

1496 — England nominally joins holy league against France.

1536 — Authority of Pope is declared void in England.

1658 — Leopold I is elected Holy Roman Emperor.

1812 — Britain, by treaty of Orebro, joins Sweden and Russia against France.

1872 — Britain introduces voting by secret ballot.

1912 — Tewfik Pasha becomes grand vizier of Persia following fall of Said Pasha's ministry.

1923 — British matrimonial causes act gives women equality in divorce suits.

1925 — The Druze begin insurrection in Syria.

1962 — Peru government is overthrown by military leaders, and United States halts military aid to that country.

1966 — South Africa declares it will continue control of South West Africa after world court dismisses suit brought by the black-ruled African states.

1972 — Egyptian government orders Soviet Union to withdraw military advisers stationed in Egypt.

1974 — Archbishop Makarios, ousted president of Cyprus, arrives in New York to seek support at United Nations.

1988 — Iran announces acceptance of United Nations resolution for ceasefire in Gulf war with Iraq.

1990 — Iraq warns OPEC members it views violations of cartel's production quotas as virtual acts of war, and accuses Kuwait of stealing its oil for past decade.

Friday, July 19

1870 — France declares war on Prussia, opening Franco-Prussian War.

1907 — Emperor of Korea abdicates under Japan's pressure.

1918 — German armies

begin retreat across Marne River after being defeated in their last great offensive in France during World War I.

1928 — King Faud stages coup in Egypt and parliament is dissolved.

1943 — Allied air force stages first raid on Rome, Italy, in World War II.

1956 — United States and Britain inform Egypt they cannot participate in financing Aswan Dam project.

1960 — Soviet Union protests to United States over plan to equip West Germany with polaris missile.

1973 — Palestinian gunman seizes 17 hostages in Athens but releases them after being promised safe conduct out of Greece.

1975 — U.S. and Soviet astronauts and cosmonauts end their two-day linkup in space.

1979 — Nicaragua's Sandinistas claim revolutionary victory.

Saturday, July 20

1654 — Anglo-Portuguese treaty placing Portugal under English control is signed.

1866 — Italian fleet is destroyed by Austrians off Lissa, Italy.

1877 — Russian forces suffer first reverses in war with Turkey.

1903 — Morocco grants France control of frontier police.

1913 — Turkey recaptures Adrianople from Bulgaria.

1922 — League of Nations Council approves mandates for Togoland, Cameroons and Tanganyika.

1945 — U.S. flag is raised over Berlin as U.S. troops prepare to take part in occupation of government after World War II.

1947 — Dutch troops launch new offensive in Java against Indonesian forces.

1951 — King Abdullah is assassinated in Jerusalem.

1954 — Armistice for Indochina is signed in Geneva, under which France evacuates North Vietnam; Communists evacuate South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; and France undertakes to re-

spect independence of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

1958 — United Arab Republic severs relations with Jordan.

1968 — Philippines recalls its envoys from Malaysia because of territorial dispute.

1969 — U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes first man to set foot on moon.

1974 — Turkey invades Mediterranean island of Cyprus with powerful land, sea and air forces.

1976 — U.S. spacecraft Viking I lands on Mars after 11-month flight and begins sending back clear pictures of the planet.

1987 — Prime Minister Anibal Cavalco Silva's centre-right Social Democrats win Portugal's first parliamentary majority.

1988 — South Africa, Angola and Cuba formally accept agreement aimed at withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for South West Africa.

1989 — Ethnic unrest continues in Soviet Georgia where major power station is hit with severe damage.

1990 — Rebels, battling forces of Liberian President Samuel Doe, overrun northern Monrovia, pushing loyalist forces onto a narrow strip of land surrounding presidential palace.

Sunday, July 21

1798 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte wins Battle of Pyramids and becomes master of Egypt.

1877 — British cabinet decides to declare war on Russia if it occupies Constantinople.

1920 — Sinn Fein and unions riot in Belfast, Ireland.

1960 — Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes premier of Ceylon after elections — first woman premier in history of British Commonwealth.

1962 — Indian and Chinese troops clash in two disputed areas of Kashmir.

1969 — U.S. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin Jr. blast off from moon and head back to Earth after man's first

lunar landing.

1973 — France explodes nuclear device over South Pacific island despite worldwide protests.

1974 — United States announces that Greece and Turkey agree to ceasefire in war on island of Cyprus.

1975 — Soviet Soyuz spacecraft lands safely in Soviet Central Asia after its rendezvous in space with U.S. Apollo craft.

1983 — Ayatollah Khomeini calls for Iranians to accept truce with Iraq, in best interests of Islamic revolution.

1989 — Top Communist Party leaders in Soviet Union call for sterner restrictions on freedom of the press.

1990 — Thousands of protesters clash with riot police in Seoul following demonstration that attracted nearly 300,000 South Koreans.

Tuesday, July 23

1785 — Prussia's Frederick the Great forms Die Furstenbund (League of German Princes).

1882 — Koreans attack Japanese legation in Seoul, provoking Chinese intervention.

1894 — Japanese troops seize palace in Seoul, Korea.

1913 — "Second revolution" breaks out in south China.

1914 — Austria and Hungary issue ultimatum to Serbia after assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.

1945 — Marshal Henri Philippe Petain is put on trial, charged with betraying France in World War II.

1952 — General Mohammad Neguib seizes power in Egypt.

1954 — Indochina settlement is approved by France's National Assembly.

1958 — Queen Elizabeth names four women to peerages — first women to sit in Britain's House of Lords.

1974 — Greece's military rulers announce they will turn nation back to civilian rule, and Constantine Caramanlis returns from self-imposed exile and is sworn in as premier.

By The Associated Press

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 18

8:30 The Family Man

Family Day

Jack, the head of the family, realises that it is better for the whole family to get together over a common cause agreeable to all, rather than the opposite.

9:10 Outlaws

Starring: Rod Taylor

A gang of villains demand protection money from business owners in a town who in turn seek help from the cowboys.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

Friday, July 19

8:30 Night Court

Bull Gets A Kid

Bull is overjoyed over the fact that Andy is now his foster son, and it is a big shock indeed when he finds that Andy is not really Andy.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

The Pig Woman Of Sparta

A lunatic killer is on the loose, he is now after the woman who breeds pigs and who happens to be the only witness to his crimes.

Saturday, July 20

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

The whole family seems to



Angela Lansbury plays Jessica in Murder She Wrote on Monday at 9:10.

be gaining from the old lady's experiences in life, especially that she is 89 years old.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Sunday, July 21

8:30 Yes Minister

The Challenge

Our minister is poking his nose in local government affairs again, and naturally, he messes things up.

9:10 Documentary

Secret Services

Presented by Omar Sharif

10:00 News in English

10:20 Death By Law

A police officer rejects methods followed by the

police department in arresting criminals. Instead he wants to follow them in order to arrest their leaders, which creates problems between him and his boss.

Monday, July 22

8:30 Empty Nest

Nurse Laura is torn between her principles and her desire to own a house.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Way To Dusty Death

A business executive dies in his bathtub supposedly of natural causes but Jessica does not subscribe to this assumption.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Separate But Equal

Judge Marshall finds an article in a law in 1865 stating that racial discrimination is illegal. He tries to convince

bis colleagues to abolish racial discrimination in accordance with the law.

Tuesday, July 23

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Black Widow

Lary is obsessed by the idea that Mary-Anne is a homicidal maniac to the extent that he loses touch with reality.

8:55 Museums In Jordan

Museum of National Heritage at the Yarmouk University

Zafer Toukan continues exploring the Museum of National Heritage.

9:10 Our House

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Blue Print For Murder

At a construction site, all that Columbo needs is a concrete evidence to solve the murder case.

Wednesday, July 24

8:30 Don't Wait Up

A series of embarrassing incidents upset Mr. Latimer. This just does not seem to be his day.

9:10 Silk Route To The Sea

Sri Lanka

The Indian cultural influence remains strong in Sri Lanka through trade and religion.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Miniseries

La Milliardaire



A new Buddhist section at the Guimet Museum

By Pascale Teinac

"A three-dimensional dictionary of Japanese Buddhism" is the nice definition of the new museum which recently opened in the refurbished annex of the famous Musée Guimet in Paris, specialised in Asian art. It houses a remarkable collection of Buddhist sculpture brought from Japan last century by Emile Guimet.

PARIS — According to the experts in charge of restoring the collection and setting it up in a former mansion from the beginning of the century, which has also been refurbished, the collection is unequalled in the world, outside Japan.

At first sight, nothing pre-disposed Emile Guimet, born in Lyons in 1836, to create one of the most fascinating museums in Paris. He was, in fact, the son of a clever chemist who invented artificial ultramarine blue and became a rich industrialist by manufacturing this product. At the age of 24, Emile took over from his father. He learnt ceramics, painting and musical composition and he travelled widely abroad. His discovery of Egypt in 1865 was decisive in that it opened up new horizons for him in archaeology, philosophy and ancient religions.

In 1876, he set off for Japan, sent on a scientific

mission by the Ministry of Public Education and Fine Arts, accompanied by the painter Félix Régamey. He was fascinated by his discovery of the Far East and visited temples, met monks and made purchases. "Guimet is very pleased," wrote Régamey, his travelling companion. "He is making an enormous collection of earthenware and an even more enormous one of good old comical gods." According to his report to the ministry about his mission, the industrialist brought back "more than three hundred Japanese religious paintings, six hundred sacred statues and a collection of a thousand books."

In 1879, after becoming an active and passionate orientalist, Emile Guimet founded the Guimet Museum in Lyons and donated it to the state. Ten years later, it was to be transferred to Paris and officially opened in Place

d'Iéna on Nov. 20, 1889 in the presence of the French President Sadi Carnot.

Buddhist pantheon brought back to life

In accordance with the industrialist's wishes, it was, at the time, a museum of the history of religions where objects illustrating the religions of Asia were presented together with those of classical antiquity and Egypt. But, in 1945, the museum's vocation changed, the artefacts from Egypt and from antiquity were moved to the Louvre and new collections arrived in the Guimet Museum. These were the fruits of quests by French scholars and archaeologists throughout Asia and they were completed by the old Asian collections from the Louvre. In this way, one of the richest museums of Asian arts in the world came into being.

Mr. Guimet's "good old comical gods" were relegated to the annex which was the former mansion of the American industrialist Alfred Heidebach, located a few houses away in Avenue d'Iéna, where they were to gather dust in general indifference. That was until the day when a professor at the Collège de France, Bernard

Frank, became keen on these Buddhist statues. He was soon followed by the curators of the Musée Guimet and by the Minister of Culture Jack Lang. Emile Guimet's Japanese Buddhist pantheon was thus to return to life with 250 works completed by about thirty Chinese Buddhist items taken from the museum's reserves.

Japan generously contributed to the restoration of the collection and the mansion which cost some eight million francs.

The presentation in the new museum restores the hierarchical classification of the beings venerated in Japanese Buddhism in six categories: Right at the top come the Buddhas (whose name means "He who has awakened"), then the Bodhisattvas who are also holy beings, then the kings of science, the divinities, the circumstantial apparitions and the eminent personalities. It is a fabulous collection of statues with the added bonus of the reproduction of the Mandala of the Toji Temple in Kyoto. Guimet had been fascinated by these 21 statues of Buddha, Bodhisattva and the kings of science and had asked the abbot to have them copied.

On the day when the new museum was inaugurated, four abbots from the Toji



The statue of a Japanese nun is one of the items in the Guimet Museum collection.

Temple came to celebrate a special liturgy, "the Opening of the Eyes," for the installation of the Mandala.

On the way, they hailed the statue of Chujo Hime, a

princess who, in the 8th century, became a nun out of love for Buddha and who has, in a way, become the mascot of the new museum — L'Actualité En France.

Irish director makes a modest film

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After his success with *Mona Lisa*, Irish filmmaker Neil Jordan was lured away for two Hollywood-style films.

Now he's returning to his roots for *The Miracle*, which unfolds like a literate short story.

"I like language in movies," he remarked. "Language has been thrown out of movies for the past 10 years."

What you get are grunts and monosyllables. I wanted to write something where the language is rich. I remember enjoying the comedies of the '30s and '40s where people really spoke."

Jordan decided to write a script about his hometown. Bray — a "tacky backwater resort" near Dublin. The story centres on a teenage boy and girl who enliven their humdrum lives by weaving fantasies around their townspeople the observe.

The drama begins when their interest focuses on a mystery woman who's acting in a touring production.

When he wrote the script, he had in mind American actress Beverly D'Angelo. Donal McCann, one of Ireland's most distinguished actors, D'Angelo plays the mysterious stranger and McCann the boy's drunken musician-father.

"When you know the actors you're writing for, as I did for Bob Hoskins in *Mona Lisa* you hopefully end up with the best of all worlds," he said. "You end up with almost no gap between the performance and the character."

For the central figures of the boy and girl the director opted for unknowns Niall Byrne and Lorraine Pilkington.

His reasoning: "If you get people at the age of 15 and 16 who have gone to theatre school, I've always found that

they've learned bad lessons. They've got theatrically without emotion. The emotion of a child that age has been lost to them. So I just got a casting director to search around Dublin."

"I'd written very articulate parts for these children. Normally kids of that age are portrayed as moody and inexpressive and sullen. I wanted these kids to speak, to be obsessed with words and ideas. So they were difficult parts to cast."

Jordan attracted attention in 1984 with his second film, *The Company of Wolves*, a bizarre retelling of the Little Red Riding Hood story starring Angela Lansbury. His earlier film, *Angel*, was a thriller set in Northern Ireland.

Mona Lisa, starring Hoskins and Michael Caine, established his reputation and garnered an Academy Award nomination for Hoskins.

Jordan was lured to high-profile studio projects: *High Spirits*, with Peter O'Toole, Daryl Hannah, Steve Guttenberg and D'Angelo, and *We're No Angels*, with Robert De Niro and Sean Penn. Neither scored at the box office.

"Hollywood has its own rules, doesn't it?" he commented. "I'm a director, I write my own material. It's difficult for me to work well if things are not very deeply felt."

"With the films that I've made in Europe, England and Ireland, there's no question of authorship. The idea of control is the responsibility of the director. In Hollywood there are many bosses."

The Miracle will have a slow release across the country. Miramax Films has not submitted the film for a rating — not unusual for independent companies selling a film to art houses and other select theatres rather than major chains.

Lou Diamond Phillips talented behind camera, too

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The notion came to him, Lou Diamond Phillips recalls, as he was idling his motor at a busy intersection here.

The result of that traffic jam brainstorm can be seen in theatres this month as the film, *Ambition*. The credits bear the legend: "Written by Lou Diamond Phillips."

"A lot of people will be surprised by this writing credit," concedes the 29-year-old actor, who also stars in the film.

"The truth of the matter is that I've been writing for as long as I've been acting. The

very first thing that I acted in was a class project that I wrote when I was 10.

"I have eight complete screenplays collecting dust, sitting in the drawers and saying, 'me next.'"

In *Ambition* Diamond plays a mystery writer who is researching his next book by interviewing a recently freed serial killer, played by Clancy Brown. The writer finds himself being drawn into the mind of the murderer, with catastrophic results.

Ambition also stars Cecilia Peck as Diamond's girlfriend and Academy Award-winner Haing S. Ngor (*The Killing Fields*) as his father.

Screenwriter Diamond designed his own character as a Filipino, which is his major heritage. He also is part Spanish, Hawaiian and Cherokee. Born in the Philippines, he moved to the United States with his mother and her second husband, a naval officer. After graduating in theatre from the University of Texas, he appeared in local plays and films, then landed a bit part on the television series *Dallas*.

The lead role in the Ritchie Valens biography *La Bamba* made Diamond a star.

His mixed background has allowed him to play various ethnicities in such films as *The*

Young Guns I and II, *Stand and Deliver*, *Disorganized Crime*, *Renegades*, *A Show Of Force* and the upcoming *The Dark Wind* and *Agaguk*.

Unlike most screenwriters, Diamond didn't have to go through the humbling ritual of shopping his script around to the major studios. Instead, *Ambition* became the first film of Spirit, a company headed by producer Richard E. Johnson and director Scott D. Goldstein. Production took place last summer in Los Angeles.

"As a writer, I am fortunate that I don't have to sell a script to put bread and butter on the table," he said.

He has avoided the major studios, he explained, because he wanted to maintain a degree of control, and because his screenplays don't fit the usual formulas.

"And because I came up in the independent Texas film industry, there's a special place in my heart for small films, for personal statements. The (Hollywood) studios are there to make \$100-million hits, and more power to them."

"But when I make my films, which I hope to do every year or so, the budgets are going to be down and more realistic as far as risk is concerned. The films will not

be about stunts or special effects or even action. I hope they will be character-driven and plot-driven."

Diamond wouldn't reveal the budget of *Ambition*. "The producers would shoot me if I did."

Now that he has the writing credit, will Diamond try directing next?

"Right now there are plans for me to direct my own screenplay in the fall," he smiled. "We are taping into pre-production on that. I'll do one more film as an actor, and right after that, hopefully, we'll go whole-hog into getting my own film made."

Ayala — a 'green' pioneer in the land of pop

By Jon Miller

MANILA — The first time Joey Ayala performed in public, he sang a "green" song that got him kicked out of school for two weeks. Back then, green in the Philippines meant dirty, or off-colour. Fifteen years later, most of Ayala's repertoire is green — but green in the trees-and-rivers sense. And it's made him perhaps the most popular folk singer in this music-made archipelago.

Ayala's songs have become anthems for environmental consciousness, for peace, for thinking hard about one's place in the world. They have been choreographed by the national ballet company; they enliven documentary films; they are even featured in popular movies.

But after years of singing mostly to university students and political activists, the 35-year-old Ayala has decided to sign a contract with a major record company and enter what he calls "a marketing phase." The new direction frightens many of his fans, who are afraid their favourite songsmith is selling out. But if it works, the Philippines will wind up with one of the most eloquent and effective environmental advocates in the developing world.

"I look at it more as a challenge," he says, sitting in the shade of a tree outside a borrowed house not far from the University of the Philip-

pines' main campus. "How can I impart something of substance, and still make it so that the (record) company will not be unhappy? I think most commercial artists are so keen on making the company happy that they forget about substance. But I think I have a chance to push the limits of commercialism, and push the limits of relevance — to push them together."

It won't be easy. Many Filipinos who hear Ayala's songs for the first time assume they are ideological or dangerous. "People are so used to Top 40, so everything that's different they say is anti-establishment," Ayala complains. "Even the fact that someone is using pieces of wood for instruments. He's not using synthesizers, he's using wood! It's bad for business!"

The Philippines has been dubbed the most musical country, but it has long suffered from an addiction to imitation. Sing-alike contests are stepping stones to daytime television contracts; daytime TV is a stepping-stone to the recording studio. Radio is immensely popular, and American-style pop music is king — the schmoozier the better. There is no shortage of political music, but it is generally of the righteous raised-fist variety.

Ayala, whose parents are both artists in the southern city of Davao, is hardly a

rebel. He has resisted getting involved in political movements, and says most of his songs are about opening one's eyes and taking stock of the world. "One thing I try to do with my songs is make them work on a literal level and make them work on a symbolic level," he explains. "They hit you emotionally, they hit you intellectually — and the music itself hits you physically. It's a very solid thing. If you miss one, you don't miss the other two."

The songs do work. Written in Filipino, the national language, they are both poetic and persuasive. And they're often fun. Ayala is an excellent guitarist whose influences range from Mediterranean to Indonesian, Beatles to tribal Filipino. His voice is strong and supple. The songs — whether ballads or dance numbers — exhibit a rare vitality that comes from a solid marriage of music and message.

"I will write a love song where the image is that of the lover as a tree, asking the wind to take its love to a friend who isn't there," he says. "It's environmental in that it will heighten your consciousness of trees and wind and fruit and leaves. What is the theme? I don't know. The message and the imagery are intertwined."

"I have a song about a turtle," he continues. "The person who is singing the song is asking the turtle to

teach him how to make light the load he is carrying, because the person himself has a load. 'I have a home, but I have no place to put it. Teach me how, how do you make it light?' Again, the theme and the image are intertwined. You become aware of the turtle, and then you become aware of what it's like to be a landless person."

Ayala sees himself as a teacher as much as an entertainer. Last year he toured the country with his band, Bagong Lumad (New Tradition), performing an environmental programme complete with a slide show and between-songs mini-lectures about environmental principles.

The environmental message is strengthened by the use of indigenous instruments — gongs, chimes, bells, wood blocks, bamboo jaw harps and a two-stringed dulcimer called the hegalong. In the Philippines, where many of the remotest and most vulnerable areas are home to tribal groups, environmental issues are inseparable from those concerning native peoples.

"The indigenous culture is really an environmental culture," Ayala says. "Their instruments come from wood, the music comes from natural sounds, they imitate birds... It's a very in-touch culture, and that's part of the spirit we're trying to move into the contemporary realm."

Trying to come to grips with indigenous culture — and indigenous music — has been one of the most difficult challenges Ayala has faced. "There's a major question we have to ask. Should you preserve, or evolve, or assimilate? Preservation is what the ministry of tourism is doing. It's what people do when they buy the costumes and put them on stage. That's preservation. It's like mummifying. Museumising things. But when you go the tribes, they don't want that. They want to survive, they want to blend into the mainstream culture."

That understanding has been behind his willingness to use indigenous themes and instruments in his own music. He's not a purist. "The begalong I play has two electronic pick-ups on it," he says, "so it's no longer a traditional instrument. Neither do I play it in a traditional way. As far as I'm concerned that's fine. After all, that's our environmental principle: make do with what you have."

He recounts an experience he had while visiting a tribe in Mindanao. "We were sitting around and some people came over and started singing to us. We asked our translators, is this a traditional song? They said, we have a hard time answering, because it seems that the melody is traditional, but the words are contemporary. They're



Highly original in his outlook on music, Joey Ayala is a rising star on the Asian firmament.

saying, 'we saw you from a distance, we saw you coming up, and we were wondering what you need from us. We are so poor now, what can we give you? That sort of thing. The melody is something they all know, but they make up the words on the spot. It's a stupid question to ask, is it traditional? It's not relevant at all.'

The experience helped lead him to a realisation that has become fundamental to his music. "I have learned that music is not just something you perform for other people," he says. "It is something you use as a vehicle to communicate."

The desire to communicate

led Ayala to start writing songs in Filipino after starting out writing in English. His English songs, he says, were mostly serious and introspective. Using Filipino allowed him to be more down to earth, more playful. It also brought him closer to his audience. "I started writing seriously in Filipino in about 1976. It was partly because of my experience in theatre in Davao. The gut reaction of the people seemed to be a lot stronger, and more gratifying to me as an artist."

Ayala has performed in Canada, the United States and Malaysia. He says he is aware of the surge in interest in "ethnic" music in the

West, and wouldn't be surprised if he makes a splash overseas before he becomes truly popular at home. But the emphasis still is on bringing the music to his own people. If that takes a little compromising, then so be it.

"The track I'm taking now is to see if the music industry in the Philippines will accept the things we do," he says. "But I guess I'll have to be a little more traditional, in the Western sense — sticking to the songs, sticking to a certain image. At this point I've got them a little off balance. That's good, because when people are off-balance you can push them, you can make them do something new" — World News Link.

A gun to unblock arteries

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — A very important convention on cardiology was recently held in Nice. One of the important subjects discussed was the method of unblocking arteries using new technological progress. The dreaded consequences of blocked arteries are well-known for their effect on the heart and the arteries of the vital organs and limbs.

The early 80s saw an explosion in the use of angioplasty for the coronary arteries, which consists in inserting a thin probe with a tiny balloon on the end, right to the place where the artery is narrowed. The balloon is then inflated according to the caliber of the artery being unblocked and, just like for a blocked pipe, the artery is "cleaned out."

The method is certainly effective and is still widely used today, but after the initial enthusiasm, it was

noticed that in 30 per cent of cases the blockage was formed again in the following months. These failures result from the fact that the patches of atheroma are not really destroyed but simply squashed or pushed back. This led to the idea of replacing the tiny balloon by a rotating bore, but this system did not prevent the artery from closing up again either. Moreover, when the vessel was completely blocked up, neither of these methods could be used as there was no way through.

The problem of completely destroying the patches of atheroma for good, remained. Scientists thought of using a laser which would make it possible to send a large quantity of energy onto a tiny surface using an optical fiber, which is both flexible and thin, inserting it into a vessel through the skin and

following the vessel right to the place where the caliber was reduced or completely fluorescence.

A risk of perforation

The aim is to create a sufficiently wide passageway to allow the artery to regain its normal caliber, while, at the same time, avoiding the disaster of perforating the artery wall. Recent progress has led to ever thinner fibers grouped together in bundles. Secondly, instead of sending relatively long light impulses lasting about a second, very short impulses (lasting a milli-second) are now emitted with a pulse-laser, thereby reducing the effect of heat, limiting the phenomena of vaporisation and increasing the destructive effect on patches of atheroma even if they are totally calcified.

Participants at "Cardiostim 90" in Nice, thus gave a round-up of these new techniques.

For the time being, angioplasty by laser is only used in cases in which it is impossible to use the tiny balloon: Complete blockage, or old or calcified organised lesions as well as those which are too long. In other cases, the balloon method is preferred.

Concerning the arteries in the limbs and, generally speaking, the large vessels, even in the case of complete blockage, immediate success is obtained in 85 per cent of cases. However, even if re-permeabilisation is followed by dilation, success in the medium term of 18 months remains at around 65 per cent which is considerable when one considers the prognosis for these diseases barely a dozen years ago.

Concerning coronary arteries, a certain number of conditions which have only

been drawn up in the last few months allow the laser to be used. It has been necessary to wait for the arrival of multifiber catheters, the development of effective coupling between the laser transmitter and the optical fibers from ultra-violet sources or distant infra-red ones. The first study, begun in May 1990 in Henri Mondor Hospital in Paris, concerned 18 patients. Success was obtained in 15 cases, 6 of which were complete blockages. It is obviously far too early to draw any formal conclusions from this.

Concerning the risk of perforating the artery wall by inaccurate firing, which is the stumbling block in these techniques, several processes in which the French distinguished themselves exist: Endovascular ultrasound which provides real picture of the cross-section of the artery, and spectroscopy and tissue analysis by fluorescence which

has been undergoing tests for three years at Henri Mondor Hospital. Before each laser shot is fired, this makes it possible to obtain the separation between the tissues which have to be destroyed and those which have to be spared, using the same fiber.

Another process is to administer a product making atheromatous tissue light-sensitive (tetracycline, hemaphysporine, carotene, etc.) which would once again make it possible to distinguish between the tissues.

There is also the French technique consisting of using a mechanical process of guidance, having the catheter glide as if it were on a rail, which ensures the greatest safety in use and has the only defect of not being usable on complete blockages.

A great deal of progress accomplished in less than ten years — L'Actualité En France.



Endoscopy and laser enable surgery to make amazing progress.

As sugar substitutes proliferate, so do worries over health risks

By David E. Kalish

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Plans by industry to market new sugar substitutes to U.S. consumers during the next few years have rekindled a debate about the potential health risks of these artificial sweeteners.

While heavy sugar consumption has been blamed for contributing to tooth decay and possibly obesity, critics warn that some of the alternatives are no bargain either.

The health question is intensifying as manufacturers scramble to take advantage of the upcoming expiration of Monsanto Co.'s exclusive right to market Aspartame in the United States. Aspartame is the key ingredient in Monsanto's hugely popular Nutrasweet brand sweetener.

Monsanto's 10-year patent for Aspartame runs out in December 1992, and competitors are lining up to produce Aspartame or alternative sweeteners that they claim are better tasting or more versatile than Nutrasweet.

In addition, Monsanto is petitioning the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market Aspartame sweetener in heated products, an expansion beyond its use in table-top sweeteners, soft drinks, whipped toppings and other cold foods.

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a Washington-based consumer group, criticises many of the sweetener entries in its new book, *Safe Food: Eating Wisely in a Risky World*. Monsanto vigorously de-

fends the safety of Aspartame and says it was sufficiently tested to the satisfaction of federal regulators. But critics question the thoroughness of some of the research.

Utah State University researchers, for example, have found that Aspartame caused irregularities in some brain functions of laboratory mice, which said could explain some of the complaints associated with Nutrasweet. They said consumers of Nutrasweet should not be alarmed by the test results, but called for more study.

Others have warned pregnant women to avoid Aspartame because of unknown consequences to fetuses.

The FDA and the National Centres for Disease Control have received hundreds of

consumer complaints of headaches, dizziness and insomnia in regard to Aspartame, but have said tests reveal no problems with the sweetener.

"It tell people if you are having one of those reactions, just avoid the product," said Lisa Lefferts, staff scientist at CSPI and co-author of the consumer group's book.

In addition, one of 20,000 babies is born without the ability to metabolise phenylalanine, one of the two amino acids that make up Aspartame. Toxic levels of this substance in their blood can result in mental retardation, and the FDA requires all packaged goods containing Aspartame to bear a notice warning such people against their consumption of it.

One study found a somewhat increased risk of brain tumours among laboratory mice fed Aspartame, but a subsequent test could not duplicate those findings, the CSPI book said. Critics say that because Aspartame is so widely used the FDA should have required the manufacturer to conduct a more definitive study.

Consumer groups also expressed concern about Acesulfame-K, approved by the FDA for limited use in 1988 and now mixed with several flavours of trident sugarless gum. The sweetener goes by the name of Sweet One, a German company with U.S. headquarters in Somerville, N.J.

Hoechst Celanese said the company has conducted tests thoroughly demonstrating the product's safety.

But Mr. Lefferts said a test on laboratory mice found Ack caused an increase in the incidence of breast tumours and another study showed an increase in the incidence of lung tumours.

Some of the most formidable competition to Nutrasweet may come from Sucralose, an ingredient from Johnson and Johnson's McNeil Specialty Products Division that may win FDA approval as early as this year. "We feel they are satisfied Sucralose is safe," said Nancy Walker, spokeswoman for the New Brunswick, N.J.,

unit of Johnson and Johnson. "Sucralose doesn't seem to cause cancer, but it may cause other problems that would limit the number of foods in which it could be used," said the CSPI book.

Mr. Lefferts said more testing is needed to address concerns over the effect of Sucralose on the Thymus Gland, which is important in the body's immune system.

Mr. Lefferts said no problems have been found with Alitame, a sweetener derived from protein for which Pfizer Inc. does not expect FDA approval until at least the mid-1990s.

Abbott Laboratories and the Calorie Control Council

Industry Group are petitioning the FDA to bring back Cyclamate. The sweetener was banned in 1969 after tests showed that when combined with other chemicals the substance could promote cancer.

Responding to concern that Saccharin appeared to increase slightly the risk of cancer, the government in 1978 required food manufacturers to warn consumers on the label that the use of the artificial sweetener may be hazardous.

Saccharin, the leading artificial sweetener before Nutrasweet's debut, is still used in consumer products including some soft drinks and the table-top sweetener sweet 'n low.

Nigeria seeks to head off explosion in hard drug use

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

LAGOS — Olugbenga Adedolau kicked heroin addiction last year and is now campaigning to press home to Nigeria's youth that hard drugs are dangerous.

"It is a major problem right now. If nothing is done, there will be an explosion within five years," Mr. Adedolau, 29, said in an interview.

More and more mostly young Nigerians are being lured by heroin, cocaine and other drugs, according to official sources.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was set up in Lagos 18 months ago to combat rampant trans-shipment of hard drugs through Nigeria, where corruption is a way of life.

The NDLEA has a new priority since drug bosses started to pay young peddlers in kind with heroin, cocaine, marijuana and amphetamines, a classic way of penetrating a new market.

"We regard young people as our target. We are taking our anti-drugs campaign to homes, schools and universities," said NDLEA official tyke Anyaduba.

Most evenings, young pushers can be seen in Broad Street, the commercial heart of Lagos, and near a central mosque as well as around a big hotel in a residential area.

A Nigerian judge, Olufunmilayo Oni-Okpaku, called this month for the death penalty for convicted drug barons to help curb trafficking, instead of the current maximum of life imprisonment.

Mr. Adedolau said drugs were relatively cheap on the streets — five naira (150 cents) for a pinch of heroin, compared with some \$30 in Europe. Cocaine sells for about a sixth of the price in Europe.

Official figures for drug use and addiction are not freely available but Mr. Adedolau said up to 20 per cent of

people under 40 could be involved in some way.

Major ingredients for a drugs explosion are in place — Nigeria is in an economic squeeze and 40 per cent of its 116 million people are under 21.

Most weeks, a Nigerian is reported held somewhere in the world for suspected trafficking, while announcements of arrests of couriers in Lagos have become commonplace.

Nigeria is a major transit country for South American cocaine and heroin from South East Asia destined for the United States and Europe.

President Ibrahim Babangida said this week that 15,433 Nigerians were arrested abroad for suspected trafficking between 1979 and 1989, of whom some 4,800 were convicted.

"These figures are staggering and most embarrassing," said Gen. Babangida opening a week-long anti-drugs campaign.

The NDLEA said it

arrested 115 suspected drug traffickers from varied backgrounds and seized about 50 kilograms of cocaine and heroin in Nigeria in the first quarter of this year. Most of the arrests were in cities such as Lagos and Ibadan.

Mr. Anyaduba said the NDLEA had been successful in liaising with other countries to refuse visas to some known Nigerian traffickers.

A major problem for the NDLEA, which receives advice from British, American and other drug enforcement agencies, is manpower. It has only 400 agents, all former police and customs men.

"The NDLEA is under-equipped. The ports are wide open because their agents work mainly at Lagos and Kano Airports," a Western diplomat said.

"Most people in a position to do something about the problem in Nigeria have not fully recognised the problem," he added.

More people face charges over spread of AIDS

By Jeff Woods
Reuters

MARTIN, Tennessee — Police jailed Connie Lewis because she let a bystander give the "kiss of life" to her fiancé as he lay dying from a heart attack.

She had failed to tell the bystander that her companion was suffering from AIDS. Lewis says she thought only of saving her fiancé's life.

She was arrested and

charged with reckless endangerment two days after the death of her fiancé, James Coburn, and is now one of a growing number of people facing imprisonment over the spread of AIDS.

Lewis is accused of using her fiancé's body like a deadly weapon, exposing the bystander "to imminent danger of death or serious illness," according to a police complaint.

She spent four days in jail last month before posting bail

and her case will come up in September before the grand jury in Martin, a city of 9,000 in the northwestern corner of Tennessee.

If convicted, she could be sentenced to six years in prison.

"I didn't mean to intentionally hurt nobody," Lewis sobbed during her recent preliminary hearing. "All I thought about was saving Jimmy."

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) says the

case is the most extreme example yet of criminal prosecutions based on unfounded fears of how AIDS is spread. The medical profession says it can only be transmitted through sexual intercourse and blood.

The ACLU has already joined appeals in two cases in which AIDS victims were convicted of attempted murder.

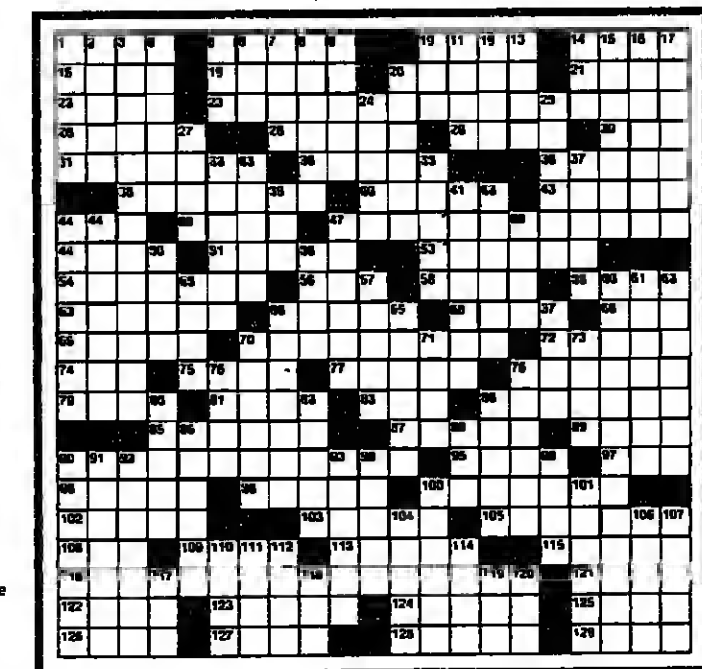
Lewis is believed to be the first person without AIDS to be charged.

Weekend Crossword

BOUQUET
By Henry Saltzhandler

ACROSS
1 Army beds
5 Detecting device
10 Copees
14 Amphibian
18 Nobel chemist
20 Resound
21 A Guffin
22 Virginia willow
23 Sidney Poitier film
26 Fred or Ethel on TV
28 Artist's stand
29 Ullula
30 — and Magog
31 Series of actions
34 Dominion
36 Century plant
38 Swale
40 Remde

43 Forty—
44 Bakery product
45 Solitary
47 Katharine Hepburn film
49 Can. prov.
51 Marsupial
53 Reproduced as s
54 Hodgepodge
56 Letter editor
58 Case for small
59 I. town
63 Brownish orange
64 — Tour
65 "Tel — the
66 Layer
68 Musical work



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Poor dull-witted farmer endured many fruitless years trying to grow seedless pomelo-grapes.
2. British policeman sold gold police dot bow tie with ribbons to big kids.
3. The wild young artist made unusual mobile, using his hair spray on a spider web.
4. Expert accountant, in April, could feel he is "deep in the heart of taxes."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. OM. URPF UP CYP YGOR. LI LO IRPZ SB IM
SO IM BSI BB MY ORSI SB. —By Ed Riddleston

2. KOCH X QVIANF CXFH ZKRCF NEO X
PRBRIQBEZ PXQVEKO QVKN NIXJAF E
HAQBAIFXHQ FIXJAIR. —By Gordon Miller

3. YAL JLUHAAALN RAUSSUAH. PURL M
OTYELP OQNSLQ. VMN M NPP SMAHPLE
V.L.J. —By Barbara J. Rugg

4. O YALSIC SCALE NOCY: QCPXY SP ENLY
PUL QPXUY. —By Norton Rhoades

Diagramless 19 X 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 — Vagab
4 Line of catches
8 Identical
9 Poi source
10 Relating to fance
13 Revolve around
15 Be made up of
17 Caps
18 Rallie
20 Time period
21 Bid of fare

22 Playground item
23 Occident
24 Indigo dye
25 Mountains in Europe
26 Sallet
27 Schwarzenegger role
29 Sudden shock
30 Gambler's haven
31 Tossity
32 Journey

35 Invasive person
37 Bovine sound
38 Saucy
42 Extra tire
44 — manner of speaking
45 Wallace or Tyson
46 Canard
47 Excludes
48 River in Eng.
49 Emergency cars
50 Colors
55 Pile of
57 Ocean liner
59 Doing nothing
60 Floor covering
62 Chin, "way"

53 Crust
54 Print measures
55 Winged insects
57 Let it stand
58 Mental position
61 The elements
63 Prepares
64 Dan
65 Troubles
66 The best
67 Letter grade

DOWN
1 Illumination device
2 The States: abbr.
3 Diego
4 Caffeine is one
5 Corn spikes
6 Curve
7 Burrowing creature
8 — Like it Hot!
10 Pigeon coop
11 Capt. goddess
12 US monetary unit

13 Pointed tooth
14 Lancaster of films
15 Vard
16 Bounders
17 Certain vocalist
18 Big shot
21 Name for a bysander
22 Hills
23 Merco —
28 Last and
Rockwell

29 Poken
30 "Raven" poet
31 Members of the Pantheon
32 Sword
33 Tarnish
34 Literary style
35 Half a fly
36 Diamonds
37 Fortiss
38 Smoker's need

40 Tolerant
41 Poken: stake
42 Members of the Pantheon
43 Colors
44 Pile of
45 Ocean liner
46 Floor covering
47 Chin, "way"

13 Pointed tooth
14 Lancaster of films
15 Vard
16 Bounders
17 Certain vocalist
18 Big shot
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22 Hills
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53 Crust
54 Print measures
55 Winged insects
57 Let it stand
58 Mental position
61 The elements
63 Prepares
64 Dan
65 Troubles
66 The best
67 Letter grade

Saddam heralds political pluralism

(Continued from page 1)

While pointing the finger of blame clearly at the United States and its Gulf war allies, he mentioned none by name. "They are doing everything in their power to delay the lifting of the boycott," he said.

The Iraqi leader appeared unsmiling and dressed in a dark blue suit, seated in front of a floral display and with an Iraqi flag at his side.

He noted that legislation authorizing multiple political parties had been passed by the National Assembly. He said it would soon become law "in accordance with the constitution, and we will soon start to apply the principles of pluralism in a broad manner."

The Iraqi leader called on Iraqis to participate in the "experiment" to work together for post-war reconstruction of the country "under the banner of nationalism and pan-Arab nationalist goals."

It was President Saddam's first public address since March 16 when he promised democratic re-

forms.

Last year, President Saddam's speech on the occasion of the July 17 coup that brought his party to power, marked the start of his campaign against Kuwait. He accused the emirate of stealing Iraqi oil and plotting to sabotage Iraq's economy.

Two weeks later, Iraq's army invaded Kuwait touching off the international confrontation that led to the Gulf war in January and February.

Kuwait, and its Gulf war Arab allies have rejected Iraq's calls for an urgent Arab League meeting to discuss U.S. threats to bomb Baghdad for concealing its nuclear activities.

"The eight countries that signed the Damascus declaration will reject Iraq's call for a meeting of the Arab League," said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Iraq last Saturday urged Arab Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt to "adopt an urgent, clear and unambiguous stand on this (U.S.) aggression" and called for a meeting of league foreign ministers.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer repeated the call Wednesday, urging Arab countries to "bury their differences" over the Gulf crisis.

"The Iraqi delegation to the

emergency meeting will leave the (Arab) brothers to discuss the aggressive threats and take whatever action they decide," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying.

A leading Egyptian newspaper Wednesday called the sanctions against Iraq inhumane and said they should be lifted.

"We believe that the continuation of this embargo has become an inhumane matter, especially that Iraq had been forced after its defeat to implement Security Council resolutions," the semi-official Al Ahram said in an editorial.

Al Ahram's call was the first from Egypt to end the blockade. The newspaper said it was unthinkable that sanctions against Baghdad should remain in force while Israel "escapes punishment for atrocities greater than those committed by Iraq."

U.N. commissioners in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction suspect Iraq may have more enriched uranium than Baghdad has revealed, an official in the commission said Tuesday.

He said the commissioners had no concrete evidence of this but noted that Iraq had declared its facilities, its equipment, and its delivery system but only limited amounts of uranium.

"We cannot be assured this is complete," Johan Molander said, adding that the approximately 25 kilos or recently declared enriched-uranium "does not make a bomb."

"We are far from assured we have now seen it all," he added. Iraq had said that its extensive research facilities were aimed at peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The commission contends there was no doubt that the aim was to make bombs.

Baghdad in the last 10 days submitted a 29-page document outlining nuclear facilities and equipment it says are complete. Last weekend Iraq gave U.N. teams another five-page list that diplomats said contained the locations for most of the hardware on the previous list but no new revelations.

But while the lists apparently were being compiled, U.N. inspectors found another hidden facility near Al Sharqat, a village between Mosul and Tikrit, they say was an unfinished uranium-enrichment plant about 18 months away from production. "This plant, along with a twin site Iraq recently declared at Tarmia, was proof for the commission that Iraq had spared no expense in building up a clandestine nuclear weapons programme, estimated at \$4 to \$8 billion."

Israelis break legs

(Continued from page 1)

when troops shot a percussion grenade into his home during a clash.

Palestinians said troops in the occupied Gaza Strip confiscated some 200 cars bearing distinctive number plates issued only to Arabs living there.

Car confiscations by troops have been common during the 43-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Palestinians say Israeli undercover units use the Arab vehicles when they try to capture activists in the uprising.

In another development, three Palestinians hijacked an Arab-owned vehicle and ordered the driver to head to the Jordan River where they apparently fled

across the demarcation line, the army said Wednesday.

The chase late Thursday night, in which there were no casualties or damage, was dubbed on Israel Radio as "the strangest security incident," lately in the occupied West Bank.

According to the army, soldiers were told at about 2100 (1800 GMT) that three Palestinians were at large near an Israeli collective farm.

It said that the men "armed with a pistol and a grenade got out of a car that brought them from the Tulkarem area," in the West Bank.

Soldiers closed the main road along the demarcation line, launched wide searches and "found that they most likely crossed into Jordan," the army communique added.

The radio said that during the searches all roads in the area were blocked and "river beds combed with gunfire."

The hijacked vehicle was driven by an Israeli Arab man from the village of Kalansua, the radio said. It reported that the hijackers asked him to stop by a river bed.

The driver then rode to the nearest farm where he reported the incident, the radio said.

By Wednesday morning military commanders were investigating how the hijackers took an estimated 90-minute drive without being detected at army roadblocks, the army roadblocks, the radio added.

It quoted a senior officer in the area as commenting that the men "taught us a lesson."

Unprecedented arms pact

(Continued from page 1)

number of nuclear weapons on each side by 25 per cent to 30 per cent. The United States will reduce its 12,000 warheads and bombs to about 9,000 and the Soviet Union will go down from 11,000 to about 7,000.

"We have moved far away from the threat of nuclear war. It is our common victory," Mr. Gorbachev said at the news conference.

The accord was announced just before Mr. Gorbachev made a plea for economic assistance to Mr. Bush and the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan.

By announcing the agreement in advance, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev made sure that the Soviet leader would not go home without some dramatic news, even if he did not get a massive package of aid.

Mubarak in Damascus ahead of Baker

(Continued from page 1)

and rejected Israel's "annexation" of the Golan Heights.

The Group of Seven called on Israel Tuesday to freeze Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel was swift in its rejection of the appeal.

The major industrialised nations also called on the Arabs to suspend the economic boycott of Israel, operated by a Damascus-based Arab League affiliate (see page 2).

"There is no connection between the two things," a statement from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office said.

"The problem of settlements is very complex and belongs to the type of problems which will be raised and discussed when negotiations between Israel and the Arab states open," it said.

A senior Israeli opposition leader issued a warning note to Mr. Shamir.

"It is the first time that the major nations of the world see eye to eye on the peace issue. The world is before us, and from the world it is impossible to run away," said Israeli opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

"There is no escape but to go to an international conference," Mr. Peres told Israel Television.

In the occupied territories, Palestinian leaders gathered for consultations on hearing that Mr. Baker was making a fresh Middle East shuttle.

Israel Radio said they were preparing a document stressing that the leadership would not agree to exclude Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem from a delegation to peace talks.

Israel press reports said Tuesday that while Israel was now likely to accept the presence of a United Nations "silent observer" at a peace conference, it would continue to oppose people from Arab Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation.

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تمن من برنامج رحلاتنا الشيفة نصف ١٩٩١

١. اليونان
جزيرة رودس (رودس) رحلات مباشرة خاصة على متن طائرات الملكية Air Bus
٨/٨ ٨/٢٧ ٧/٢٦ ٧/١٩
الاقامة في فنادو دي لوكس خمسة نجوم جرانديس سير " رودس بالاس "

٢. اسبانيا وجزيرة رودس
رحلات سياحية لمدة اسبوعين في البحر الابيض المتوسط على متن البواخر الفاخرة MV/LAPALMA
رودس ، ميوراكيون ، كورفو ، دورونيوك ، البندقية ، البيريه
الانطلاق من عمان كل يوم جمعة ابتداء من ٧/٢٦ السعر ٨٨٠ دينار شامل الاقامة الكاملة

٣. اسبانيا
رحلة لمدة ١٢ يوما تضم زيارة الاندلس / ملنقا / ومديريت كل يومين

٤. ايطاليا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

٥. النمسا / شمال ايطاليا وسويسرا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

٦. اليونان وتركيا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

٧. لبنان
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

٨. سوريا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

٩. تركيا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

١٠. فرنسا
رحلة خاصة الى كل يوم احد زيارة روما / فينيس / فلورنس / كابري

Notice to the Jordanian consignees of containers arriving on the MV "Red Sea Europa" Voyage No. 242

The Red Sea Express Line announces that its ship M/V "Red Sea Europa" was prevented from continuing its voyage No. 242 to Aqaba by the naval forces stationed at the entrance to the Straits of Tiran for inspection of cargoes, and was delayed for ten days during which it was obliged to proceed to other Red Sea ports in order to restow its cargo of containers addressed to Jordan to make them easily accessible for inspection.

Under the terms of the Bills of Lading the carrier has the right to discharge the cargo at any other convenient port and to consider the voyage terminated and his obligations towards the consignees as duly implemented.

Nevertheless the Red Sea Express Line has decided as a gesture of goodwill towards Jordanian importers to bear a part of the losses which were incurred as a result of the delay and the restowing of the containers, and to continue the voyage to Aqaba, and to collect the balance of the losses incurred from the Jordanian consignees, as the carrier is entitled to do under the conditions of the Bill of Lading.

Accordingly the additional charges which the consignees have to bear are as follows:

646.- U.S.Dollars per 20' container
1292.- U.S.Dollars per 40' container
(Or equivalent in Jordanian Dinars)

Jordanian consignees of containers shipped on the above vessel are requested to pay these charges to their respective shipping agents in Jordan prior to the expected dated of arrival of the vessel on July 19th, 1991.

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WORLD STUDENT GAMES

American cruises to women's 200m freestyle swimming gold

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — Karen Kraemer came back from a split-second relay loss to cruise to the women's 200-metre freestyle gold medal at the 16th World Student Games.

Edged out by Soviet Natalia Trefilova in the 800-metre freestyle relay Monday, the 21-year-old American took the lead at 60 metres and swam to a 2:02.23 finish, 0.64 faster than her previous best.

This time, Trefilova was third behind Canada's Patricia Noall. On a bitter-sweet day for the Americans, however, a U.S. women's gymnastics team downed the Soviets for the first time in any major competition, only to get beaten to the gold medal by North Korea.

The quartet of Aimee Trepnier, Chari Knight, Kristen

Kenoyer and Joy Selig tallied 115.15 points, surpassing the 114.95 of the Soviets, Natalia Laschenova, Elena Sazonenkova, Oksana Abindin and Zulia Hairava.

Then they watched as the North Koreans — Kyoung Hee Choi, Bosil Wangi, Myoung Hwa An and Mi Young Park — went onto the floor and beat their score with 116.50.

In basketball, Hubert Davis scored 25 points and George Lynch added 13 to lead a dunking U.S. team to a 103-57 victory over a shorter, slower Irish team in their first game of the tournament.

The U.S. women's basketball team rolled to their second row in a row, beating Japan 125-38. On Monday, the Americans whipped Ireland 116-38.

Canada downed Chinese Taipei 99-77 and Spain inflicted a 133-11 defeat on Gnam, which lost Monday to Britain 144-25.

Australia nipped Germany 12-10 in a tight water polo match and the U.S. team downed Romania 9-5.

Minutes after Kraemer had won her gold, China's Zhuang Yong, who won the 100-metre title Monday, swam even faster than the American in the 200-metre 'B' final. Zhuang, the world 50-metre freestyle champion, clocked 2:01.97 — having failed to swim fast enough to reach the 'A' final.

"I wish I had been out there to give her a race but it doesn't make me feel any worse about it," Kraemer said.

Jianqiang Shen collected China's third swimming gold medal

in the men's 100-metre butterfly in a new Chinese record of 54.25 seconds. Soviet Andrei Kozlov finished second and American Dan Katler won the bronze, swimming in his first major games.

Japan's first gold of the games came from Takahiro Fujimoto, who swam 2.43 seconds faster than his previous best to win the 400-metre individual medley in 4:23.10. American Gregory Burgess collected silver with 4:24.53 and Australian Brent Hordling won the bronze.

Soviet swimmer Svetlana Kuzmina downed Chinese star Lin Li and world champion Elena Volkova to win the women's 200-metre breaststroke in 2:31.60. A Soviet quartet upset the favoured Americans to win the men's 800-metre freestyle relay.

U.S. women's college champ advances at Mahwah classic

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Sandra Birch, the reigning U.S. collegiate champion, was successful in her professional debut in the \$150,000 Pathmark Women's Tennis Classic.

Birch, who helped Stanford to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) team title the last four years, rallied for an 0-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory over Penny Barg-Mager Tuesday and advanced to the second round of the 28-player draw.

Monica Seles, who has not played since winning the French Open in early June and has not been seen since unexpectedly deciding to skip Wimbledon, is the top seed and Jennifer Capriati, runner-up last year, is seeded no. 2. Both players drew first-round

byes.

Capriati opens Wednesday night against Stacey Martin. Seles, who switched a news conference from Wednesday to Thursday to explain the injury that kept her from Wimbledon, will play her opening match Thursday night against Andrea Leand.

Leand, who was ranked no. 13 in 1984, got rolling against an obviously fatigued Pam Casale-Telford, pulling out a 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 decision in a 2-hour duel. Casale-Telford was the runner-up here in 1981.

In another evening match, 1985 champion Kathy Rinaldi broke through 3-3 in each set for a 6-3, victory over Terry Phelps.

Barg-Mager applied a lot of

pressure in the opening set against Birch.

"It was my first pro match and I was understandably nervous," said Birch, 21. "I finally got into the match near the end of the second set. Then in the third, I could see her start to break down."

Birch, who also won the NCAA singles title in 1989 as a sophomore, won four of the final five points in the second set tie-breaker and then broke away from a 2-2 tie in the third set.

Sixth-seeded Peanut Louie Harper and no. 7 Andrea Keller each used straight-set victories to advance to the second round.

Harper, 30, a 13-year tour

pressure in the opening set against Birch.

Keller was in control from the start with aggressive ground strokes, defeating Jill Smoller, 6-1, 6-2, in 45 minutes.

Australian Tracey Morton, one of the few players not complaining of the on-court temperatures which neared 38 degrees Celsius, turned back former English No. 1 player Anne Hobbs, 6-2, 6-0, in 34 minutes.

"I'm from Brisbane and I like playing in the heat," said Morton, who broke in the second game of the second set on successive double faults and gained breaks in the fourth and sixth at 15.

Lemond is riding high as tour enters mountain stages

PAU, France (R) — Greg Lemond is riding high as one of the most unpredictable Tour de France cycle races in years at last reaches the mountains Thursday.

Thanks to his own brilliance, the failings of his rivals and the bizarre twist of fate provided by the PDM affair, the American finds himself in line to win his fourth Tour de France even before the usually decisive stages in the Pyrenees and Alps.

Lemond could hardly have expected to be in such a commanding position at the halfway stage of the 22-day race after 11 days restricted to the flat terrain of east, north and west France.

He leads by 51 seconds from Soviet sprinter Djamilidine Abdouliparov, a rider expected to fade once the serious climbing starts, and by two minutes 17 seconds from his only apparently serious rival Miguel Indurain of Spain.

Lemond, who would be the first rider to win three consecutive tours since Belgian Eddy Merckx won four races in a row between 1969 and 1972, is the main beneficiary of the Dutch

PDM team's abrupt departure. PDM leader Eric Breukink of the Netherlands was his most dangerous threat until a mystery illness forced the nine-strong team out of the race Monday and Tuesday.

The affair, with its inevitable rumours of doping abuse, has battered the tour which in its 88 years of existence has never before seen an entire team pull out with illness.

PDM, with star riders such as Breukink and Irishman Sean Kelly, is one of the richest and most prestigious in cycling and a natural focus of attention.

This time the spotlight is getting uncomfortably hot with their explanation of a bacterial infection affecting all nine riders but not any other team support staff — regarded with general suspicion.

Tour officials have demanded a full account, including medical evidence, to clarify a mystery which has turned the focus away from the sporting aspects of the world's toughest race.

"Lemond really has the race in his pocket now," Italian rival Gianni Bugno said after news of

the PDM withdrawal. Before the race started, Bugno was named with Breukink as a rider who could beat Lemond but the world number one has lost almost four minutes on the American as he trails in fifth place overall.

"Anyway, after Saturday's time trial in Alençon, I reckoned Breukink couldn't stop Lemond winning and that the best placed man to do it was Indurain," Bugno added.

Indurain, joint leader of the Banesto team with 1988 tour winner and fellow-Spaniard Pedro Delgado, won the demanding 73-kilometre time trial and is bound to launch an all-out offensive in the Pyrenees where he feels on home ground.

Indurain won the toughest mountain stage in last year's race in Luz Ardiden — just ahead of Lemond — and he will certainly be looking for a repeat in Thursday's 12th stage from Pau across the border into the Spanish mountain resort of Jaca.

The most daunting stage follows Friday with 232 kilometres of riding over some of the most testing passes in the Pyrenees as the race returns to France at Val

Louron. Indurain will need to have shown his hand by then if he wants to mount the victory podium on the Champs Elysees in Paris when the race ends on July 28.

But Lemond, who described the PDM affair as "a catastrophe for cycling," always seems capable of doing whatever is necessary to win a race he has made his own in recent years.

His strength was proved in the first stage 10 days ago when he and Breukink delivered a crushing blow to the rest of the field with a surprise attack.

His performance in Saturday's time trial, when he finished second just eight seconds behind Indurain, underlined the solidity of his title aspirations.

The likes of Italy's Claudio Chiappucci, Laurent Fignon of France, Delgado and Bugno have not been able to get back on terms since losing ground on the opening day.

Their chances now look slim but, once a tour starts unpredictably it has a habit of continuing that way and there may be a few more twists and turns in the plot before the riders reach Paris.

Agassi scores easy win in Washington tournament

WASHINGTON (AP) — Andre Agassi began defence of his Sovran Bank Classic title with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over David Pate.

The top-seeded Agassi lost two service games in the second set, but never trailed in the hour-long second-round match of the \$600,000 event.

"I returned a perfect game at 4-5 (in the first set)," Agassi said, "and after that I felt great. I felt I played extremely well tonight. 'It'll take a while adapting from grass back to hard courts,'" said Agassi, whose appearance at Wimbledon earlier this month was his first in three years. "It'll get better as the week goes on."

Two of the top eight seeds were eliminated — no. 7 Aaron Krickstein and no. 8 Todd Witsken.

Krickstein, who like the other top eight seeds had received a first-round bye, was upset by Markus Zöckler of Germany 7-6 (7-1), 2-6, 7-6 (9-7).

Witsken, who followed Agassi onto the stadium court in the evening, fell 6-3, 6-1 to Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan.

Jimmy Arias, a two-time final-

ist here, outlasted Australia's Mark Woodforde in the after-

noon to advance to the second round.

The 10th-seeded Arias prevailed 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, in a match that lasted two hours and 14 minutes with the temperature in the 90s and the air quality in the "unhealthy" range.

In other second-round matches, fourth-seeded Richey Reneberg rallied to beat Glenn Layendecker 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; no. 5 Derrick Rostagno topped Simon Youl of Australia, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; and no. 11 Malawi Washington scored a 6-3, 6-7 (7-2), 6-1 decision over Argentinian Javier Frana.

In first-round play, 13th-seeded Grant Connell of Canada rebounded to beat countryman Martin Westenholme 6-7 (6-3), 6-4, 6-4; no. 15 Patrick Baur of Germany defeated Guillaume Raoux of France 6-4, 7-6 (7-3); Jim Grabb, unseeded this year after making the finals last year, dispatched Ivan Baron 6-3, 6-3; Chris Pridham of Canada beat Brazil's Fernando Roscoe, 7-6 (7-1), 6-1; Canada's Andrew Sander ousted Sweden's Henrik Holm, 5-7, 7-5, 7-5; and Chuck Adams defeated John Ross, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 19, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If promises may be broken today... accept it philosophically without making any fuss or getting others irritable and wait for a re-run of this same condition when things go your way.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whether at home, at the office, or place of business or wherever you are able now to pitch in at the duties awaiting your attention to be done.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can do the little things that bring your charm to the surface and that makes you more attractive to you and then be off to recreations of interest.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your day to focus your attention upon whatever is most important to you and that can bring you a feeling of security and satisfaction.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Let those who work side by side with you be more aware of you and their attitudes and show them you value the good will of joint projects.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have lots of little details to handle that have to do with your money and property so delay no longer but get into them and make them work.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to show you are a charmer so get yourself early

in the pink of condition so you can get others to go along with your desires.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Many apparently unimportant items that can improve the various routine interests in which you have some projects to do makes your life better.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do some favors for those you regard as friends that make you a closer attachment in their minds and repay social obligations you have incurred.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you find it is up to you to do whatever will make one in authority or executive see you are capable of the project assigned to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You find that those new ideas you have been unable to look into before this are now the medium whereby you can make life more productive.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is your time to actually show you do realize that it is advisable to carry through with all obligations you have incurred before going off to new ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you can certainly get together with outside contacts and decide how to wind up and finish the mutual undertaking to which you are committed.

Your Birth Stone is part of you.

Wear it to appreciate you.

World Resources - Dajani & Co. Inc.
Jewelers - Gems
Amman - Rio De Janeiro
Amman - Amra Hotel - 6th circle.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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CHOOSE THE SURE WAY

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 4 4 2
♥ 10 7 6
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ J 10 2

WEST
♠ 6 3
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ A K 9 8 5 4
♣ A K Q J 10 9 7 6

EAST
♠ Void
♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ Q J 10 3 2
♣ 7 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 9 7 6
♥ A K J
♦ A K 5
♣ Void

The hidden:
South West North East
2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Some players look no further than the ace of spades in search of an extra trick. The expert considers taking a finesse as a last resort, and only falls back on it if no better line is available.

North-South were using two clubs as their artificial demand bid, with two-bids in the other suits weak. After West introduced the club suit East, with an eye on the vulnerability, preempted to the five-level. With 10 sure tricks in hand, South was understandably reluctant to permit the opponents to play the

hand, and so competed with five spades, which ended the auction.

West led the king of clubs, ruffed to the closed hand. There was only one entry to dummy, the eight of trumps, and many declarers we know would have spent that precious card to lead a heart and then try to guess whether to play the jack or the king from hand. As the cards lie, neither would have succeeded and, in the fullness of time, declarer would have had to concede another heart trick and a diamond for down one.

These declarers with better technique would work out that the key card in the deal was dummy's two of hearts. After the ace and queen of hearts are forced out by the king and jack, the ten would be a winner.

All declarer need do after ruffing the first trick is draw two rounds of trumps and lead the king of hearts from hand. Suppose West wins and continues with the ace of clubs. Declarer must take care to ruff high, then lead the jack of hearts to force out the queen. Declarer can win the diamond return (or ruff a third round of clubs high), cross to the table by overtaking the seven of spades with the eight, and away goes the diamond loser on dummy's ten of hearts. A triumph for the on-finessers!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 18, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your mind will be quick, logical and responsive to those about you today and you should find yourself joining in with others in very interesting activities. Don't be careless on the road.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Having a good time is alright but don't get someone else involved in spending their money and don't force your attention but let others come to your more easily.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Much can be achieved by you quietly and without making a great ado about it but a resentful partner can cause many problems if further irked.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find that practically everyone you regard as a friend is willing to go along with your present ideas but work matters can be dull and non-productive.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your time to do whatever will bring you more respect from one in authority instead of going off on a wild goose chase for some amusement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take sometime to find out a new and fresh approach to being more successful with your expansive ideas and goals and avoid that fixed problem at home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have so many obligations

you hardly know which to start on but whatever you do be very exact and precise and avoid any tendency to rush through.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to actually listen to what your partners have to say and to go along with them instead of merely being interested in financial aspects.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can have a wonderful time today if you will forget for a moment that private worry and get out to the things you really enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can have a wonderful time today if you will forget for a moment that private worry and get out to the things you really enjoy.

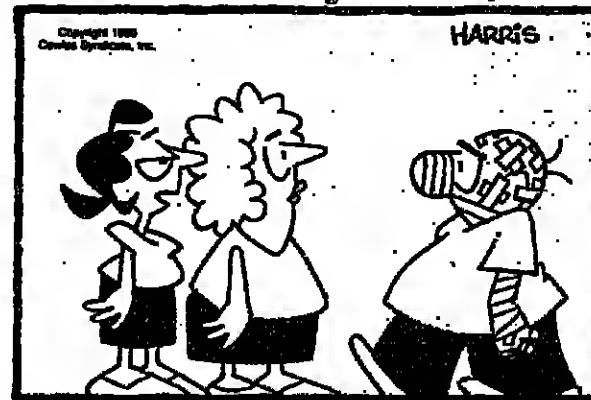
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever your family wants you to do is certainly the best way for you to express yourself now so do so and avoid that demanding friend.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate more calls, communications with others is fine but keep out of the limelight today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now find that being more practical about your money and seeking ways to increase it is vital to your welfare but stick to proven methods.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Mr. Graceful tripped in a magazine store and got 1,497 paper cuts."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZOONE

GRITE

MAULSY

TURIAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

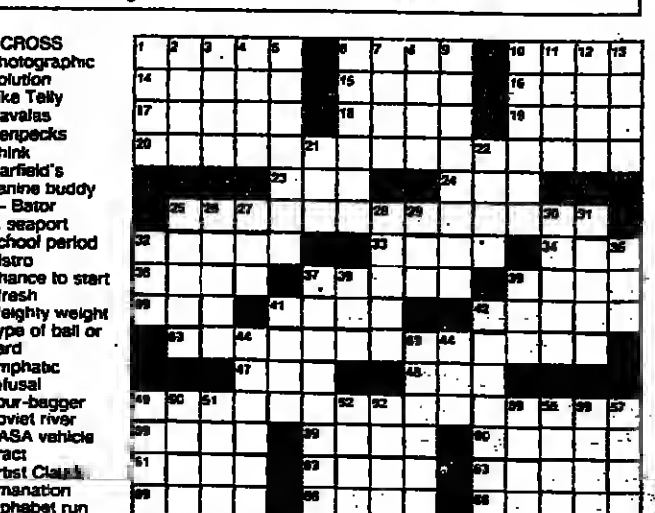
Answer: A O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BURST GUEST PILFER EMERGE

Answer: What the landlord's promises are often no better than—HIS PREMISES

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. QUARA 2. ADAR 3. AGES 4. ADAR 5. ADAR 6. ADAR 7. ADAR 8. ADAR 9. ADAR 10. ADAR 11. ADAR 12. ADAR 13. ADAR 14. ADAR 15. ADAR 16. ADAR 17. ADAR 18. ADAR 19. ADAR 20. ADAR 21. ADAR 22. ADAR 23. ADAR 24. ADAR 25. ADAR 26. ADAR 27. ADAR 28. ADAR 29. ADAR 30. ADAR 31. ADAR 32. ADAR 33. ADAR 34. ADAR 35. ADAR 36. ADAR 37. ADAR 38. ADAR 39. ADAR 40. ADAR 41. ADAR 42. ADAR 43. ADAR

51. Verdi opera 52. S-shaped curve 53. Seminars 54. Sediment

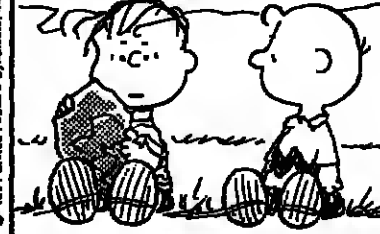
55. The Seven 56. Year 57. Celebration 58. HC college

Peanuts

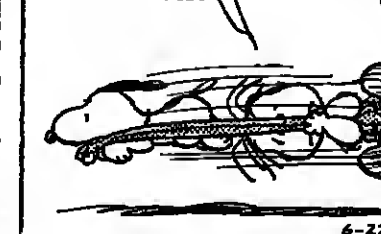
WHEN YOU GO OFF TO COLLEGE, DO YOU THINK YOU'LL TAKE THAT BLANKET WITH YOU?



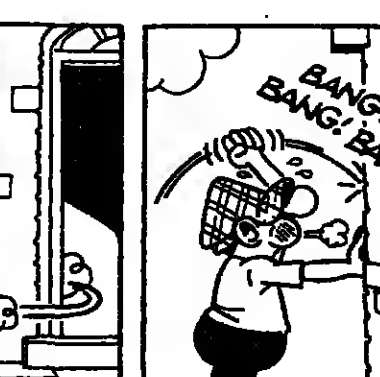
NO, I THINK I'LL LEAVE IT HERE WITH SOMEONE WHO WILL...



...APPRECIATE IT!!



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 16/7/1991	Tokyo Close 17/7/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6420	1.6455
Deutsche Mark	1.8005	1.7957
Swiss Franc	1.5635	1.5600
French Franc	6.1090	6.0992
Japanese Yen	137.29	137.17
European Currency Unit	1.1415	1.1447

USD Per STG: 1.6420
European Opening at 8:30 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates: 17/7/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.00	6.31	6.75
Sterling Pound	10.67	10.67	10.62	10.66
Deutsche Mark	5.75	9.00	9.12	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.66	7.66	7.68	7.50
French Franc	9.43	9.43	9.43	9.44
Japanese Yen	7.40	7.50	7.37	7.21
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.63	9.75	9.81

Interest rate bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.
Precious Metals: 17/7/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	569.10	7.20	Silver	4.40	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin: 17/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.667	.686
Sterling Pound	1.1265	1.1341
Deutsche Mark	.3617	.3656
Swiss Franc	.4372	.4414
French Franc	.1124	.1130
Japanese Yen	.5205	.5230
Dutch Guilder	.3366	.3403
Swedish Krona	.1055	.1060
Italian Lira	.0513	.0516
Belgian Franc	.01651	.01652

For 100 Other Currencies: 17/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7990	1.7960
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1828	.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Omani Riyal	.1857	.1867
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2025
Omani Rial	1.7500	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1857	.1867
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4100

For 100 Other Currencies: 17/7/1991

Index	15/7/1991 Close	16/7/1991 Close
All-Share	111.09	110.77
Banking Sector	106.85	106.62
Insurance Sector	119.41	119.35
Industry Sector	115.18	114.42
Services Sector	126.83	126.30

December 31, 1990 - 1991

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6450/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1466/71	Canadian dollar
	1.7965/75	Deutschmarks
	2.0235/45	Dutch guilders
	1.5607/14	Swiss francs
	36.95/99	Belgian francs
	6.0950/1000	French francs
	1336/1337	Italian lire
	137.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.4950/5000	Swedish crowns
	6.9990/7.0040	Norwegian crowns
	6.9430/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.90/369.40	U.S. dollars

Algeria hopes to earn \$7 b from oil sell-off

BRUSSELS (R) — Algeria, hit by economic crisis and under a state of siege, hopes to earn up to \$7 billion by selling stakes in oil fields to foreign companies. Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said in an interview.

Mr. Ghozali said he would sell off one quarter of the giant Hassi Messaoud oil field, Algeria's biggest.

"That should allow me to get out of the infernal circle of debt," he said. The North African state, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), nationalised its oil industry in the 1970s.

Asked how much Algeria hoped to make from the sale of stakes in its oil fields, Mr. Ghozali replied: "\$6 or \$7 billion." The buyers would be private foreign companies.

He did not make clear whether stakes in other fields would be up for sale. Earlier this month, he said 20 per cent of the Hassi Messaoud field would be sold off.

Mr. Ghozali said Algeria's economy had to improve to stabilise democracy but its foreign debt was badly structured because of short-term borrowing. "We have to pay out an amount every year that amounts to 75 per cent of our income," he said.

Mr. Ghozali has put Algeria's total foreign debt at some \$24 billion. But the World Bank, in a recent report, said it was \$29 billion.

Yugoslavia to slash budget by 60 %

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government has said it would slash the 1991 federal budget by 60 per cent as part of what it called shock therapy to avert economic collapse.

The information secretariat told Tanjug news agency the budget would be reduced from the planned 163 billion dinars (\$6.9 billion) by around 100 billion dinars (\$4.25 billion).

The cutback is part of a plan outlined by the government last week to prevent the economy collapsing within weeks because of political disputes among Yugoslavia's six republics.

Under the plan, which diplomats said does not need parliamentary approval, the government would restrict money supply, limit spending and freeze all selective credits.

The budget cutback was intended to restrict federal government intervention in the economy.

Wang, IBM announce formation of a strategic business relationship

Wang Laboratories and IBM announced a strategic business relationship that will result in significant benefits for both companies.

According to Wang chairman and CEO Rick Miller, this relationship is "... expected to be a model for future computer — industry relationship ...". The agreement provides for joint efforts to bridge the hardware platforms of the two companies. Wang will market IBM's RISC system/6000 and personal system/2 product platforms, which will be sold under the Wang Logo. Wang will also add IBM's AS/400 line of midrange systems to its product line.

In addition, Wang will also offer service on the IBM products it sells, and will have access to IBM training, literature, spare parts, and diagnostic tools. IBM and Wang will jointly fund and staff AS/400 conversion centres that will develop conversion and migration tools for Wang customers who choose to move to IBM technology over time. The centres will be managed by Wang which will remain an independent company.

Wang will work with IBM to define application architecture for future Unix-based office and image products, which will include several Wang software components. This alliance is proof that IBM recognises that Wang's integrated imaging and open-office E-Mail technologies are the best in the industry.

Wang's goal is to be a world leader in providing innovative information — processing solutions that will help shape the office and imaging architectures of the future. The alliance between Wang and IBM will combine the strengths of both companies to meet their needs and more.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended easier after a day of this, featureless trade, with investment trust selling and arbitrage-unwinding the primary culprits. The Nikkei average fell 314.45 points or 1.35 per cent to 23,060.70.

SYDNEY — The market remained in hibernation with stocks trading in a narrow range and closing marginally higher. The All Ordinaries Index ended up one point at 1,542.2.

ZURICH — Shares closed little changed in slow trade as stocks rebounded from earlier slim losses after Wall Street firmed in early trading. The SPI Index closed 0.3 points lower at 1,124.4.

PARIS — Shares ended hardly changed in thin summer holiday trading, with buying interest limited to a clutch of blue chips. The 40-share CAC Index nudged 2.60 points higher to 1,758.11.

LONDON — Shares again closed at a record high, tracking Wall Street higher, after early weakness caused by profit-taking from two days of substantial gains. The FTSE-100 index closed 4.2 points up at a record 2,561.0.

NEW YORK — Blue chips held on to modest gains at midday as buying in the oil sector provided support. The Dow was up eight at 2,992.

Saudis seek increased oil output at next OPEC talks

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia will demand a 500,000 barrel per day (b/d) jump in its oil production quota at the next meeting of OPEC ministers, a source close to the Saudi delegation said Tuesday.

"Saudi Arabia will ask for 8.5 million (b/d) and it expects demand (for OPEC oil) in the fourth quarter to be 24 million," the Gulf-based source said.

Output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was around 22.6 million b/d in June.

The source said Saudi output in the third quarter would be the same as the second quarter at 8.03 million barrels per day.

OPEC ministers are due to meet on Sept. 24 in Geneva or Paris to decide output levels for the last quarter.

The Saudi demand is built on expectations of rising demand for OPEC oil, with little Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil on the market.

Planners at Saudi Aramco expected the state-owned oil company to produce 8.2 million b/d. This plus the Saudi share of production from the Neutral Zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia would take the total output close to 8.5 million, an industry source in Doha said.

"OPEC will do whatever possible to balance the market and the best ceiling for the fourth quarter is 24 million (b/d)," said the source close to the delegation.

Some OPEC sources expect sharp exchanges at the September meeting because some countries prefer a lower production level to boost prices.

But Saudi Arabia will probably insist and a proportional rise in the other members' quotas would hike the production target level to 23.7 million b/d.

The figure is consistent with the OPEC secretariat and economic commission board's estimates for fourth quarter demand, and runs close to OPEC's capacity, without Kuwait and Iraq.

The Saudis believe that pitching output close to 24 million b/d will leave OPEC's basket of seven crude oils around \$20 a barrel in the fourth quarter, compared with last week's average of just over \$18.

They say OPEC does not have to meet the official \$21 target price and a figure just below

could nurture demand for the longer term. The chances for higher prices in the first quarter of 1992 will help quell any dissent.

According to Saudi estimates, growing demand in North America and winter fuel buying will increase demand for OPEC oil to about 25 million b/d in the first quarter of next year.

Meanwhile, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported that Saudi Arabia began building its overseas oil stockpile again in June, after selling a large portion of it in April and May.

The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said Saudi Arabia has pushed up its wellhead oil production to 8.2 million b/d in June from 7.5 million in April and May. June crude sales remained at around eight million b/d.

MEES said Saudi onshore and offshore overseas crude inventories had been drawn down by 500,000 b/d in April and May, but the trend reversed in June with a 200,000 b/d buildup.

"This is not surprising since Saudi overseas stocks had been drawn down to round about their operational requirement level of 30 million barrels by early June," the newsletter said.

In the past couple of months the kingdom had sold from its overseas stockpile, which at its peak during the Gulf crisis was estimated to be around 100 million barrels, as oil demand slumps seasonally in the second quarter of the year.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Saudi Arabia seems to be boosting its oil stockpile close to the consuming centres ahead of the fourth quarter when demand for crude oil grows due to the northern hemisphere winter.

MEES said with Saudi Arabia pushing up its output, total crude oil production by OPEC rose by 900,000 b/d in June to reach 23.1 million b/d, from 22.2 million b/d in May.

Other rises in OPEC production were a fresh 100,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone and 20,000 b/d from Kuwait itself. Both fields started production in June.

MEES said there were also slight increases in Iran, to 3.25 million b/d from 3.21 million, and in Libya, to 1.55 million b/d from 1.50 million.

Soviet republics gain control over exports

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov has approved a new rule allowing the country's republics to export oil, gold and other goods without permission from the Kremlin, a Soviet newspaper has reported.

The rule lets the 15 republics issue import and export licences for goods produced on their territory, and may help President Mikhail Gorbachev convince Western leaders in London that his country is making concrete, far-reaching economic reforms.

The Soviet government still has the right to limit the volume of certain exports and retains proceeds from sales. The change also does not affect import or export taxes to the Soviet government, the business weekly Kommersant reported.

"The easing of formal barriers will not outweigh the negatives, namely, continuing taxes on export and import and the continuing (government) practice of confiscating foreign currency from enterprises," Kommersant said.

Still, the change will "significantly simplify the procedures for firms to obtain permission to export their products," it reported.

Previously, only central Soviet trade ministries could grant licences.

Mr. Gorbachev agreed on April 23 to let republics have control over most resources on their territory in return for their support for his proposed union treaty to hold the country together.

Soviet firms currently must pay profit taxes of up to 35 per cent. They also must trade 40 per cent



Valentin Pavlov

of their hard currency earnings to Soviet banks in exchange for roubles at the commercial rate of 61 roubles to the dollar. This rate is much lower than the tourist exchange of 27 roubles to the dollar.

The licensing rule was drafted by the union-republican foreign currency committee, a panel that includes Mr. Pavlov.

New price increases press Romanians

ROMANIA (AP) — Romanians were confronted with new, higher prices this week, which resulted from the removal of subsidies on some raw materials and services.

Shoppers in the capital found some cheeses had nearly doubled in price over the weekend, while onions and potatoes increased 20 per cent.

"I will limit myself and only buy what is necessary," said Ion Moldovan, 74, an engineer. "The government doesn't understand the low (living standard) of the poor people, because if they knew, they wouldn't do this."

Subsidies on certain raw materials, electricity, heat, liquid fuels and railway transport were discontinued as of July 1, but the government did not announce the move until last week.

Prices on certain foodstuffs went up as suppliers anticipated added costs due to higher prices to industry for raw materials and transport.

The latest move marks the third round of price increases to hit Romanians in less than a year. The government first decontrolled

some prices last November and lifted ceilings on other goods in April.

The moves are part of government efforts to ease the country towards a market economy. Last week, parliament began debating a privatization proposal to distribute 5 per cent of the country's state-owned industries to the public for free.

"The government will continue to subsidize staples such as bread, sugar and butter, as well as coal, copper and lead.

These subsidies are scheduled to be removed once a wage and pension system based on the current cost of living is established. No date for such a system has been set.

Theodor Nicolaescu of the ministry of commerce and tourism said the lifting of price ceilings would have a "disastrous" effect for consumers.

"The people's first level of perception is that life is becoming more expensive, and that they cannot put up with it," said Mr. Nicolaescu.

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Washington to evacuate Clark Air Base

U.S., Philippines agree on bases

MANILA (Agencies) — U.S. and Philippine negotiators announced Wednesday that Washington will formally abandon Clark Air Base but has agreed to a 10-year lease extension at the huge Subic Bay Naval Station.

"We have reached agreement on all major issues," U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrago told reporters, reading from a joint statement. He said Clark would be turned over to the Philippines "no later than Sept. 16, 1992."

The agreement must be ratified by two thirds of the 23-member Senate, where opposition to the bases is strong.

The joint statement said Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage "have reached agreement on all major issues regarding Philippine-American cooperation talks" including economic, scientific, cultural, and defence matters as well as the status of Filipino veterans of World War II.

The lease on the bases expires Sept. 16. The one-year phaseout period for Clark was agreed upon to allow time to repair the bases and provide for an orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces, the statement said.

Both Clark and Subic were heavily damaged by last month's eruptions of Mount Pinatubo, a volcano about 16 kilometres west of Clark.

On June 10, more than 15,000

troops and dependents were evacuated from Clark, leaving behind a skeleton force of about 2,500 airmen.

The joint statement said the Philippines will receive \$360 million for the bases during the next fiscal year because the Bush administration already had submitted its budget proposal to Congress.

Starting in fiscal 1993, the administration will ask Congress to appropriate \$205 million annually for use of Subic.

On Tuesday, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in Washington that the United States would not send U.S. forces back to Clark because it has been too badly damaged by Mount Pinatubo.

Filipinos reacted to that news with consternation. Despite strong opposition to the bases, surveys show most Filipinos support the American presence because of financial benefits to the country.

U.S. officials claimed the two bases pumped in about \$1 billion annually to the Philippine economy through aid and spending by troops and dependents.

It was unclear how the new agreement would be received by the Philippine Senate. Before the announcement, Senate President Jovito Salonga said he was opposed to the agreement, and several other senators complained it would force the country

into "mendicancy."

Mr. Cheney said he believed continued use of Clark was "just not a viable prospect."

He said later on the Public Broadcasting System show "MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour" that cost of restoring Clark to use "would be several hundred million dollars. It's in an area that's still threatened by continuing eruptions by the volcano. There are massive potential mudslides in the area. The volcanic dust that's been deposited around is very hard on jet engines."

"So we have made a decision that we are not interested in going back," he said.

Air Force studies have put the costs of bare-bones repairs at the base at about \$500 million.

Political observers criticised the Aquino government and the United States for allegedly exploiting the volcano issue.

"A certain amount of intellectual dishonesty has characterised all our negotiations with the United States on the military bases here," said an editorial in the newspaper Manila Standard.

Operations at Clark, which has served as a major air force refuelling, maintenance and logistics centre for years, were being reduced prior to the volcano's eruptions. That resulted from the diminished threat faced by U.S. forces overseas and military budget cuts.

On Wednesday, ash from the

volcano fell in Manila, 110 kilometres to the south, forcing suspension of 13 international flights from the capital's airport.

Scientists said a tropical depression was responsible for spreading the ash so far from the volcano.

Airport Manager Eduardo Carrascano said officials hoped to resume normal operations within 12 hours.

Aquino appoints new defence secretary

Philippine President Corason Aquino appointed her former armed forces chief Renato de Villa as defence secretary Wednesday, replacing Fidel Ramos who resigned.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters Gen. De Villa, who retired from the military late last year, would take his oath Friday.

Mrs. Aquino made the announcement after accepting the resignation of Gen. Ramos, which he offered earlier this month saying he wanted to concentrate on his campaign for the presidency in the 1992 election.

"I thank him for the service he has rendered to me and to the country, especially where constitutional democracy is concerned," Mrs. Aquino said of Gen. Ramos.

Gen. Ramos had stood by Mrs. Aquino during the six coup attempts against her since she came to office five years ago.



Norodom Sihanouk

Sihanouk quits as resistance leader

PEKING (AP) — The warring Cambodian actions agreed Wednesday that Prince Norodom Sihanouk will resign as resistance leader in a compromise aimed at ending disputes blocking a U.N. peace plan.

In return, Cambodian Premier Hun Sen agreed to drop his demand to serve as vice chairman of the Supreme National Council, the 12-member Cambodian reconciliation body negotiating on the U.N.-proposed settlement. Prince Sihanouk is chairman of the council.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen issued a joint statement saying the compromise gives the exiled Cambodian monarch a "neutral and conciliatory role" in efforts to end the 12-year-old civil war. The statement called the agreement the best solution "for putting an end to hostility between Cambodian parties in the conflict."

"I have no party and no army," Prince Sihanouk later told reporters. "I am completely neutral."

Prince Sihanouk resigned earlier as head of one of the resistance groups and was on a leave of absence as leader of the three-party Cambodian opposition coalition.

Disputes over the makeup of the Supreme National Council (SNC) have prevented it from tackling the broader differences that stand in the way of bringing peace to Cambodia.

On Tuesday, Mr. Hun Sen and leaders of the three opposition groups seeking the ouster of his government agreed to ask for a U.N. survey team to make preparations to monitor a ceasefire and cutoff of foreign military aid.

If the U.N. secretary general approves the request, the U.N. experts could be working in Cambodia next month, said a diplomat attending the talks in Peking as an observer.

At a meeting last month in Thailand, the Cambodian factions agreed to honour an indefinite truce and stop receiving outside military aid. But they failed to agree on how those measures should be monitored.

The Cambodian factions also have picked the members of the delegation to represent the country at the U.N. General Assembly in September, a statement issued by Prince Sihanouk's office said.

The delegation will be led by Prince Sihanouk and include two representatives of the Phnom Penh government — Mr. Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong.

The other members will be Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council also met Wednesday in Peking to review the efforts to advance the U.N. peace plan for Cambodia, which is stalled primarily by disputes over demobilisation of troops.

The five countries — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — crafted the U.N. peace plan.

It calls for a monitored truce, demobilisation of the four factions, a peacekeeping force and extensive U.N. involvement in running Cambodia before U.N.-supervised elections.

The three resistance groups support the U.N.-proposed settlement.

Phnom Penh has insisted on keeping its army intact during the transition stage. Mr. Hun Sen also has demanded that the plan include provisions to prevent a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, whose radical attempt to reshape Cambodian society led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people during its 1975-78 rule.

The leaders of the four factions planned to discuss Mr. Hun Sen's objections to the U.N. peace plan in Peking. But Prince Sihanouk said progress was not expected on those issues until the next formal round of peace talks, set for Aug. 26-28 in Bangkok.

Chinese blame floods on global warming, Gulf war

PEKING (R) — Chinese scientists blame the early arrival of killer floods this year on smoke from the Gulf war, the Philippines volcano Mount Pinatubo and general global warming known as "the greenhouse effect."

Meteorologists quoted in the official press Wednesday said smoke, ash and atmospheric gases had disrupted normal weather patterns, leaving lush southern provinces facing drought while torrential rains lashed the north.

More than 1,700 people have died since the floods began in May.

At least 20 million hectares (50 million acres) of cropland have been submerged and direct economic losses have topped \$7 billion, according to official statistics.

Weather experts note that while this year's death toll is still below last year's, the flood season is not yet over and the early onset of flooding has increased the likelihood of greater devastation as the season progresses.

Cben Lianshou of China's National Meteorological Centre said the disaster was the result of a number of weather factors that had combined to form a dangerous atmospheric cocktail.

"The greenhouse effect, volcano ashes, solar activities, Gulf war smoke... have all contributed to climate changes," the official China Daily quoted him as saying.

South China's springtime anticyclone, a weather pattern that brings rain to the sub-tropical provinces along the coast, shifted some 300 kilometres northward this year.

"This drew the annual rain season in the area forward by about 20 days," he said.

Tu Oipu, vice president of the Nanjing Institute of Meteorology, agreed that the greenhouse effect — the theory that man-made emissions are warming the Earth's atmosphere — could be the chief culprit.

19 girls killed, 71 raped in Kenyan school assault

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Nineteen girls were killed and 71 raped in a weekend attack by male students at a Roman Catholic boarding school, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Most of the 306 male students at St. Kizito mixed secondary school participated in the attack on the girls' dormitory Saturday night, the daily Nation newspaper said.

The boys were reportedly angry because the 283 girls refused to join in a protest against the headmaster over the payment of student activity fees.

President Daniel Arap Moi visited the school Tuesday, called the incident "disgusting and beastly" and said he would

appoint a committee to look into the problem of discipline in Kenya's schools.

The dead girls either suffocated or were trampled to death in the melee. Their bodies were found in one small room of the dormitory, where they apparently had fled in terror.

The school is on the outskirts of Meru, a central Kenya town about 170 kilometres northeast of Nairobi. Most students are the sons and daughters of area farmers.

Police did not arrive at the school until several hours after the attack. They found only three young boys on the campus. The remainder had fled.

25 female rebels killed in Sri Lankan battles

COLOMBO (R) — At least 25 women rebels were among 160 Tamil separatists killed by a column of troops sent to relieve a vital army base in northern Sri Lanka under siege for the past week, the Sri Lankan news agency said Wednesday.

Lankapuwath quoted official sources as saying the 25 women had been killed in "Operation Balavegaya" launched by sea-borne troops Sunday night.

A military spokesman said he could not confirm the report.

He said about 1,000 soldiers, who landed on a beach about 12 kilometres from Elephant Pass camp, were meeting stiff resistance on their way to relieve the camp.

The resistance is very stiff. The terrorists are putting everything into the fight to prevent us reaching the camp," he said.

Forty rebels and seven soldiers were killed in Tuesday's fighting, mainly between the relief column and the Tamil rebels trying to block it, he said.

The column had reached the halfway mark to the camp, manned by about 800 troops, after fighting its way through rebels and minefields.

"The advance is slow because of mines," the spokesman said. He put the estimated rebel death toll at 200 from the battles at Chundikulam Beach but said it was possible hundreds more had been killed.

Military sources said about 40 soldiers, including two majors, had died in the seven-day battle.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE), fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils, have pounded the army's Elephant Pass camp since July 10 with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Elephant Pass is a narrow causeway linking northern Jaffna peninsula, the Tigers' main base, with the rest of the island.

The latest attack was the most severe of many assaults on the camp since the Tigers resumed fighting in June last year after abandoning peace talks with the government.

The rebels fired four mortar bombs at the camp Tuesday but otherwise attacks have ceased, the spokesman said.

The camp defences have held despite repeated attempts by the rebels to overrun it, using explosives-filled bulldozers and tractors. Several soldiers, including a major, have been killed inside.

Air force helicopters have not been able to land in the camp to take away 60 wounded soldiers, due to heavy fire from anti-aircraft guns used by the rebels.

The military spokesman said troops recovered one machinegun and took 21 other weapons from about 140 bodies found scattered on the battlefield.

He said about 50 rebels and 10 soldiers had been killed in separate clashes since Monday in eastern Trincomalee district.

That operation by the army to clear rebel-held jungle in the area was continuing.

European environmental research satellite launched

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — The first in a new generation of European satellites to monitor the global environment was successfully launched into orbit Tuesday from the European Space Centre in the jungles of French Guiana.

After initial uncertainty whether the rocket had achieved orbit, space officials here said that Ariane's mission was successful and the only problem was lack of information from a tracking station.

European Space Agency Director General Jean-Marie Lutton said the satellites were in correct orbit and official confirmation would come later. The only problem, he said, was a lack of information from a NASA tracking station in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Observers watching the launch from a control centre 12 kilometres from the launch pad felt the ground shake during lift-off at 10:46 p.m. (0146 GMT). A flash of bright light lit up a cloudless equatorial sky and the roar of the rocket scattered birds

into nearby jungle. The rocket launch, fired off from the Ariane Centre on the northern tip of South America, had been delayed for two months.

Seventeen minutes after lift-off, the European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS-1) separated from the Ariane rocket and was hoisted into the polar orbit.

Two minutes later four micro-satellites separated from the Ariane 4 rocket, but space officials here were unable to confirm whether the satellite achieved correct orbit for 30 minutes after blast-off.

The 2,384-kg satellite will provide the most precise data yet on the scope of environmental damage.

Originally scheduled for launch in early May, Ariane flight 44 was delayed due to technical problems in the rocket's third stage. Tuesday's launch was the fourth Ariane flight this year and the eighth successful mission since a launch failure in February 1990 led to the loss of two Japanese satellites.

COLUMN

3-year-old raped on New York highway as drivers watch

NEW YORK (R) — About 20 motorists stopped to watch while a three-year-old girl was raped by her uncle in a school playground just off a major New York highway until an outraged tow truck driver took action, police said. The rape recalled past incidents of New Yorkers' indifference to crime, including a notorious 1960s case of a young woman murdered while neighbours watched from their windows and ignored her screams. Police hailed driver Noel Sanchez, who chased and caught the alleged rapist, as a hero and Mayor David Dinkins pleaded with people not to dismiss New York as a place where crime is a spectator sport. "I am aware of many, many crimes that were stopped immediately," the mayor said. The incident took place last Friday afternoon at rush hour, adding to a traffic jam on the east side highway. Sanchez, stalled in traffic, abandoned his truck and climbed on iron fence to get the man, police said. "Our information is that so many people stopped to watch the rape that traffic came to a halt. No one did anything until the truck driver took action," a spokesman said. But Sanchez told reporters several motorists did shout "stop."

Bush in social gaffe with queen

LONDON (R) — U.S. President George Bush has committed a social gaffe by sitting down before Queen Elizabeth and breaking royal protocol. Mr. Bush, tired after two days of meetings of the Group of Seven industrialised nations, relaxed into a chair while the queen chatted with French President Francois Mitterrand before a dazzling dinner at Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth turned around and Mr. Bush, realising his breach of etiquette, stood up. The queen then sat down for a photocall with the G7 leaders and Mr. Bush formally requested permission to take his seat by her side. Eyewitnesses said she "was not amused."

TV talk show erupts into fist-fight over republic

SYDNEY (R) — A first-fight broke out between guests on a live television talk show in Australia during a heated argument over whether the country should become a republic. Actor and pop singer Normie Rowe, a Vietnam veteran who supports Australia's official links with the British monarchy, clashed with Sydney radio presenter Ron Casey, who argued for a republic. During a heated exchange, Mr. Rowe called Mr. Casey a "low rat." The two men stood and Mr. Rowe pushed Mr. Casey in the chest, knocking the broadcaster back into his chair. Mr. Casey landed a punch on Mr. Rowe's face, forcing him to stagger off stage where he was held by staff of the television station, Nine Network. Some 5,000 telephone calls were made to the television station after the incident, some 70 per cent of which supported Mr. Rowe's anti-republican stance, staff said. The show's presenter said the incident indicated the depth of feeling surrounding the republican issue. Australia is a parliamentary democracy in which the official head of state is Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, represented by the governor-general.

Bucharest has more rats than people

BUCHAREST (R) — Bucharest has more rats than human inhabitants and will have to import more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of poison to get rid of them, the Romanian News Agency, Rompres, said Tuesday. More than 2.5 million rats have invaded the city and fat ones can be seen even in central Bucharest, chasing each other or guzzling from waste bins. Health Ministry sources said the rats had become a hazard and could create serious health problems for the city's two million inhabitants if they went on breeding. Imports of poisons to Romania were halted during the regime of former Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, toppled and executed in the December 1989 revolution. The last efficient rat disinfection of Bucharest was carried out in 1986. Rompres said Bucharest's city authorities had decided to import poison worth \$285,000 to purge the city of rats in a two-stage operation due to end in October.

Cresson jabs Japanese, gays and men

WASHINGTON (R) — Evidently undaunted by controversy, French Prime Minister Edith Cresson takes more jabs at Japanese, homosexuals and men in general in a U.S. television interview and says that, as for the French, wife is a difference.

In remarks to be broadcast Thursday on the ABC news show "Primetime Live," Mrs. Cresson expands on cutting views that have provoked squeals of outrage from Tokyo to London since she was appointed France's first female prime minister in May.

According to printed excerpts provided by ABC, she rose readily to bait provided by interviewer Chris Wallace in a chat recorded on July 4, well after her previous remarks on these subjects had made her a figure of controversy.

This time she likened the Japanese — already so mad at Mrs. Cresson that some right-wingers in Japan guillotined her effigy last Sunday — to "ant-like" workers out to conquer Europe economically like a hunter stalk-

ing prey.

"You see it as a hunter approaching a target?" Mr. Wallace asked.

"It's more or less the same thing," Mrs. Cresson replies.

As for the alleged Japanese workaholic lifestyle, she says: "We (the French) don't want to live like that. I mean, in small flats, with two hours to go to your job... We want to keep our social security, our holidays and we want to live like human beings in the way we've been always used to live."

Remarks that homosexuality was characteristic of Englishmen, Germans and Americans — but not Frenchmen — had already gotten Mrs. Cresson a thrashing from London newspapers and in the British parliament.

Cresson told ABC that homosexuality "seems strange to me... different and marginal. It exists more in the Anglo-Saxon tradition than in the Latin one."

"Homosexuality?"

"Yes. Well, everybody knows that. I mean it's (in) books and



Edith Cresson

history and, well, it's a fact of civilisation."

Men in general don't come off too well in her view.

"I say, in general, that you can replace men everywhere except in private life," she says.

"They are indispensable there?"

"Oh, absolutely, but it's the only place."

Japanese soldier emerges from Vietnam after 45 years

HANOI (R) — A Japanese soldier who deserted in Vietnam during World War II plans to go back to Japan for the first time in more than 45 years, a Japanese diplomat said Wednesday.

Harryoshi Matsushima, 70, is expected to leave his home in the southern Vietnamese village of An Huu to fly back to Japan on July 22, the diplomat told Reuters.

Mr. Matsushima deserted to grow fruit and vegetables in the Mekong Delta according to one account — but another has him switching sides to fight with Vietnamese guerrilla forces.

A Japanese journalist who met him this month in An Huu said Mr. Matsushima had deserted to join the Viet Minh, a Communist-led group that fought against Vietnam's French colonial rulers and Japan's imperial army.

The journalist quoted Mr. Matsushima as saying he had taught the Viet Minh how to use mortar and artillery.

The Japanese diplomat denied Mr. Matsushima switched sides. "He didn't fight at all. He just defected, but wasn't a soldier any longer," the diplomat said, asking not to be identified.

Mr. Matsushima's two sisters are scheduled to arrive from Japan in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City on July 18 to help him prepare for his trip home.

He was expected to visit relatives in Japan before returning to his Vietnamese wife and their fruit and vegetable farm in Tien Giang province.

Provincial officials on Monday refused permission to a Reuters correspondent who tried to meet Mr. Matsushima.

A Foreign Ministry official in Ho Chi Minh City said Tuesday that many Japanese soldiers had deserted during World War II, but most had returned home. Japan controlled Vietnam from 1940 until 1945.

Asked whether Mr. Matsushima would be punished for desertion, the Japanese diplomat said: "There's no problem. That's all in the past. It doesn't matter any more that he defected."

In a separate development, the United States is pressing Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to investigate a snapshot apparently taken last year of three U.S. servicemen missing since the end of the war in Indochina and possibly held against their will, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

"In coordination with the Department of State, we are actively pursuing this matter with the government of Vietnam," a Defence Department spokesman said.

The State Department said similar assistance had been requested from Laos and Cambodia.

The Pentagon spokesman, U.S. Navy Commander Edward Lundquist, said the families of three servicemen listed as missing in action "firmly believe" the snapshot depicts their missing relatives.

CIA nominee's hearings delayed

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senate confirmation hearings for President George Bush's CIA director nominee have been delayed for two months while other officials are compelled to say whether he told the truth about the Iran-contra scandal.

The Senate Intelligence Committee voted Tuesday to delay the confirmation hearings for Robert Gates, former deputy CIA director and now Mr. Bush's deputy national security adviser, until Sept. 16.

It also authorised committee leaders to subpoena three present and former CIA officials if they continue to refuse to testify voluntarily on whether Mr. Gates knew more about Iran-contra, the greatest scandal of the Reagan-Bush administration, than he has said.

Chairman David Boren and vice chairman Frank Murkowski, said that was the only way to be fair to Mr. Gates and insisted that "this nomination is not in trouble."

Mr. Boren said the delay would in fact aid Mr. Gates' confirma-

tion by the Senate if the three officials say he told the truth.

President Bush agreed to the delay, the White House said, despite Mr. Bush's angry protest last Friday that delay would unfairly allow rumour and innuendo to build up against Mr. Gates.

In London, where Mr. Bush was attending a summit of the world's leading industrial powers, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "we are hopeful that the Sept. 16 date to begin hearings provides the opportunity to move the nomination forward expeditiously and without interruption."

"A start-and-stop hearing and confirmation process dragging out over a number of weeks would not be fair to Mr. Gates," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Gates has said he knew little about the Iran-contra affair until it was publicly disclosed on Nov. 25, 1986.

The scandal involved diversion of profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran to arm Nicaraguan contra rebels in violation of a law

against such contra support.

A former CIA official, Alan Fiers, who was chief of the CIA's Central American task force, admitted in court last week that he told superiors about the scandal months before the public disclosure. The committee wants to know if Mr. Gates was told.

It authorised Mr. Boren and Mr. Murkowski to subpoena if necessary Mr. Fiers and two other officials he said he told of the affair: Clair George, then CIA deputy director for operations, and Jerry Gruner, then chief of the Latin American division.

Mr. Boren said all three have refused so far to testify voluntarily.

He said Mr. Fiers additionally will be given immunity from prosecution to testify to the Senate committee.

The committee actions will not interfere with a special Iran-contra prosecutor's work because the prosecutor intends to file final charge, if any, against former officials in connection with the scandal by Oct. 10, Mr. Boren said.

There was no acknowledgment by senators in debate that they were contradicting themselves.

Earlier, the lawmakers voted 64-35 to reject a Republican effort to salvage part of the abortion counselling ban.

The House overwhelmingly approved legislation on June 26 eliminating what critics call the "gag rule."

The president said last week that he might be willing to compromise on the issue. But in a letter to Senate leaders dated Monday, the White House office of management and budget wrote of Mr. Bush: "His intention is to ensure that no federal funds are used to support abortion."

Senate adopts contradictory abortion rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has voted to allow many pregnant girls to decide for themselves whether to get abortions, then approved contradictory provisions requiring girls about to undergo the procedure to notify their parents.

The two votes confused lobbyists on both sides of the issue. In effect, the Senate addressed the controversial question by leaving a final decision for later. "I think we're in an extraordinary confusing situation," said Marcia Greenberger, president of the National Women's Law Centre, which favours abortion rights.

The votes occurred as the Senate moved toward allowing government-financed family-planning centres to offer abortion advice, legislation that President George Bush has threatened to veto.

The lawmakers voted 54-45 to adopt an amendment to the over-

all